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Inside

Ukrainians thank Krawetz — Page 3
Yaremko pledges $10,000 to UCCLF — Page 3
Yushchenko to skip summit — Page 5
Yulia, Vlad to talk — Page 5
Patriarch asserts Russian domination — Page 5
Documents shed light on suppression — Page 9
Bilingual Program reaches 35 — Page 13
Bondarenko upsets Williams — Page 18
Calgary-Edmonton golf tourney — Page 19
Rebound predicted — Page 19

Ukraine seeks details on Russian legislation

Medvedev wants authorization for foreign aggression

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's Foreign Ministry seeks more details about legislation that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev recently submitted to authorize legal use of military force in foreign countries, allegedly for protection of Russian citizens.

The focus of the inquiry is how the legislation would affect Ukraine as tens of thousands of people in Crimea, the country's autonomous region, are thought to have Russian and Ukrainian citizenships.

"We view this legislation with a degree of concern. It affects not only Ukraine, it affects any other territory," Yuriy Kostenko, acting first deputy foreign minister, said Aug. 17. "We have tens of thousands of citizens living with two passports."

The comment comes after Medvedev submitted the legislation that authorizes Russian military forces to be used in other countries for protecting the holders of Russian passports. The legislation also authorizes Russian forces to open fire for protection of its military bases on foreign soil.

"We ordered the embassy in the Russian Federation to ask how is this affecting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people as the Russian Black Sea Fleet is stationed on our territory," Kostenko said.

Ukraine's concerns over the Russian legislation comes days after Medvedev in a letter the previous week had accused Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko of "anti-Russian" foreign policy, and suspended the arrival of Russia's new ambassador in Ukraine.

The letter, which Yushchenko called "very disappointing" and "unfriendly," underscores the major escalation of tensions between the two countries.

Yushchenko replied by suggesting holding a summit to solve the problems, but Medvedev had flatly rejected the idea, suggesting relations will continue to deteriorate during the next six months.

The developments come a year after Russia sent tens of thousands of troops and tanks into Georgia, a small pro-Western country in the Caucuses and a Ukrainian ally.

The five-day incursion ended with a de-facto annexation of Georgia's two breakaway territories, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a move that had been condemned by most countries in the world.

Many analysts said that Russia's increasing assertiveness have become a threat for Ukraine, in particular to Crimea, an autonomous region in which two thirds of its 1.5 million population are ethnic Russians.

But the Ukrainian foreign ministry on Aug. 17 sought to play down those fears, suggesting that it was unlikely for Russia to use direct military force against Ukraine.

"I do not expect any bigger threat [to Ukraine] then an appeal or an address [from the Russian president] to the Ukrainian people," Kostenko said, adding that it would make sense to conduct direct talks between Ukraine and Russia.

"The two parties must consistently talk on each of these issues at the negotiating table, not through sending SMS," Kostenko said.

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Canada

PLEASE SEND TO

Ukrainian Day draws 3,400

Japanese Cossack Charlie Sakuma plays his bandura.

(UkrNews)—The official attendance figures for this year's Ukrainian Day at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, located 50 kilometres east of Edmonton, Aug.9. fell just one person short of the 3,400 mark — an increase of over 150 over the previous year.

Bringing greetings on behalf of the federal government, Vegreville-Wainwright MP Leon Benoit said he was proud of the deep historical ties between Canada and Ukraine.

"During Canada's earliest years about 150,000 Ukrainian immigrants came to our young country, with many settling on the prairies and many here in this area. The stories of those early homesteaders, their courage and their sacrifice have become a permanent part of our Canadian identity," he said.

"During Ukraine's long and difficult struggle for independence, Canadians were proud to support Ukrainians' legitimate right to self-determination. Canada was the first western country to recognize Ukraine when it broke free of Soviet domination. Thanks to these

Cont. on Page 10

У Львові вимагають від президента Росії вибачень

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

14 серпня у Львові понад 100 представників кількох правих політичних сил протестували під стінами Генерального консульства Росії з вимогою до російського президента Дмітрія Медведєва вибачитись перед українцями за звернення до Президента України.

Представники КУНу, НРУ, УНП «Собор» прийшли під стіни російської дипломатичної установи з плакатами і прапорами, а ще в руках учасники протесту тримали фотографії загиблих російських журналістів і правозахисників, щоб продемонструвати, що в Росії немає свободи слова і порушуються права громадян.

Звернення президента Росії, як зазначали пікітерувальники, є неприпустимим і грубим втручанням у внутрішні справи України, відвертим недружнім кроком і порушенням норм міжнародного права.

Учасники пікету вимагали поваги до державного суверенітету і територіальної цілісності України, припинення «антиукраїнської істерії», яка поширюється в Росії, а ще офіційного вибачення перед усім українським народом.

Була ще одна вимога, яка стосувалась відкриття у Росії українських шкіл. У коментарі Радіо Свобода голова Львівського осередку НРУ Ярослав Пітко сказав: «Ми звертаємось до російського президента із запитанням: «А скільки українськомовних шкіл є в Росії?» Жодної, а в Україні є 1400 російськомовних шкіл, ми вимагаємо такої ж кількості у Росії».

Один із літніх чоловіків, який назвався Ігорем, зауважив, що не належить до жодної з партій, але прийшов під стіни російського консульства, бо вважає, що президент Медведєв образив його гідність громадянина України.

«Хто принижує одну націю, той пропадає. Нас Росія лякає газом, але так не можна, – каже він. – Ми маємо жити з усіма народами мирно, і росіянами, і білорусами, і поляками, і німцями і нікого ніхто не має принижувати».

Добросусідські відносини, на думку протестувальників, як і зрештою більшості львів'ян, мають будуватись лише на взаємній повазі.

Свою заяву пікетувальники передали одному із працівників Генконсульства Росії у Львові.

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ФОТО — РАДІО СВОБОДА

Під час пікетування Генерального консульства Росії у Сімферополі.

У Криму проукраїнські і проросійські активісти ледь не побилися

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

Близько двох десятків активістів правих і правоцентристських політичних організацій Криму пікетували 14 серпня Генеральне консульство Росії в Сімферополі. Учасники акції протестували проти «погроз і втручання російського президента Дмітрія Медведєва у внутрішні справи України». На захист російського керівника прийшли активісти прокремлівських організацій і вступили у суперечку.

Людей на пікеті було небагато – десь 2-3 десятки, але його організатори сказали, що не гналися за масовістю, бо акція проходила в робочий час, а важливо було просто висловити позицію значної частини кримчан. Пікет проходив під українськими державними прапорами і партійними прапорами Конгресу українських націоналістів, Української народної партії та Народного руху України. Його учасники закликали російське керівництво припинити тиск на Україну і вибачитися перед її Президентом та народом.

За словами лідера кримської організації НРУ, депутата Верховної Ради АРК Леоніда Пилунського, кримчани наполягають, щоб офіційна Москва ставилася до України як до рівноправного партнера і повноцінного члена міжнародного співтовариства. «Ми не молодші брати, ми рівні їм», – зазначив депутат кримського парламенту.

Разом з тим, голова кримської організації УНП Олег Фомушкін заявив, що на тлі російських погроз українському керівництву «доцільно посилити рівень обороноздатності Збройних Сил і розглянути можливість відновлення ядерного статусу України». За його словами, Україні може загрожувати російська агресія, як торік Грузії, і українському суспільству треба бути до цього готовим.

Під час проведення пікету до консульства підійшли кілька активістів прокремлівських організацій: Російського блоку, Російської общини Криму і правозахисної організації «Вєра», вони виступили на захист російського президента Дмитра Медведєва і намагалися зірвати акцію опонентів, заявляючи, що ті не мають права на протести.

Депутат Сімферопольської міськради, активіст Російського блоку Валерій Іллічов заявив, що Крим – «російська земля» і вона має «горіти під ногами бандерівців».

Лідер організації «Вєра» Святослав Компанієц, який називає себе правозахисником, сказав Радіо Свобода, що не виступає за обмеження прав для частини своїх співгромадян – зокрема, права на свободу слова та права на мирні зібрання, але зазначив: «Не вважаю, що українські національні партії мають настільки активно вести себе в Криму і Севастополі. Ми ж не їздимо до Львова чи Тернополя і нав'язуємо свою точку зору на ті чи інші політичні процеси. Вони мусять усе ж розуміти, що тут російсько-культурний регіон».

Членів українських організацій прийшло на пікет більше, хоча прокремлівські активісти були агресивнішими. Втім, до бійки не дійшло. Міліція розділила сторони, і акція протесту завершилася без інцидентів.

США критикують Росію за неконструктивне ставлення до України

(Радіо Свобода)—Помічник державного секретаря США Філіп Кроулі, відповідаючи на брифінгу на питання про «досить нищівну», за словами журналістів, заяву президента Росії стосовно України, заявив 13 серпня, що, на думку США, для України і Росії важливо мати конструктивні відносини.

«Не певен, що ця заява була саме в цьому дусі», – наголосив він із іронічним сміхом, як зазначено в стенограмі.

Один із чільних посадовців Державного департаменту, який очолює його Бюро зв'язків із громадськістю, повторив позицію своєї держави, що Україна – суверенна країна і має право робити власний вибір і переслідувати власні інтереси.

Філіп Кроулі нагадав, що це чітко підтвердив і віце-президент США Джо Байден у перебігу свого нещодавнього візиту до України.

«Ми також вважаємо, що (Україна) має право вступити до НАТО, якщо вона так вирішить, і ми, очевидно, підтримуємо це її право», – додав він.

У вівторок на відеоблозі президента Росії Дмітрія Медведєва на сайті Кремля розмістили його відеозвернення до колеги з України Віктора Ющенка, в якому російський керівник звинуватив українського в «антиросійській позиції» і висловив низку різко критичних зауваг до того, якою, на його думку, мала б бути політика України. Заявивши, що він вирішив наразі не посилати до України нового посла Росії, Медведєв висловив упевненість, що відносини двох країн повернуться й піднімуться на вищий рівень за нового українського керівництва, яке, на його думку, мало б замінити Ющенка після президентських виборів 17 січня наступного року.

Напередодні нинішньої заяви офіційного представника Держдепартаменту США виступ російського президента вже критично оцінювали американські оглядачі й коментатори, повідомив кореспондент Радіо Свобода.

А в Європарламенті один із його віце-президентів Марек Сівец в інтерв'ю Радіо Свобода заявив: різкі заяви президента Росії на адресу українського керівництва свідчать, що Москва намагається втручатися у процес майбутніх президентських виборів в Україні.

Ukrainians thank Krawetz

By Pamela Cowan,
Regina Leader-Post, August 10, 2009

Saskatchewan Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz is being honoured at home and abroad for promoting awareness about the virtually unknown genocide in Ukraine.

On Saturday night (Aug.9), the 58-year-old politician received the Award of Excellence from the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada in recognition of his efforts to raise awareness of the 1932-33 famine-genocide in Ukraine known as Holodomor.

Last year, Krawetz introduced legislation to set aside the fourth Saturday of every November as a day to remember the millions of people who starved to death because of Soviet policies. The legislation was passed on May 6, 2008.

"The significance of the Act ties to two things: the world doesn't know about this — that's No. 1," Krawetz said in an interview Saturday. "The government of Ukraine and the president there have indicated that they want the message to get out that in fact a genocide had occurred."

He said it's difficult to know how many people perished in one year, but it's between seven and 10 million deaths.

"When you compare that to the Holocaust, which was an horrendous act, it matches in terms of the people who lost their lives — it's probably equivalent to the same number," Krawetz said.

"When it was raised by people of Ukrainian descent here in the province throughout the previous year, after it was marked in Ukraine, then it came to our government."

He credits Premier Brad Wall for acting quickly to start work on the legislation.

"He asked me to lead that," Krawetz said. "That's how I became involved and probably because of my Ukrainian descent as well."

Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to enact the legislation, said Orest Warnyca, committee chair of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada's national convention.

"(Krawetz) is a champion for our cause ... to make sure that this doesn't happen any place else in the world," Warnyca said.

Krawetz received the award following his keynote address at the national convention's Saturday night banquet. The convention, which began in Regina on Thursday and wrapped up on Sunday, also paid tribute to Krawetz's work in building a strong relationship with Ukraine.

Krawetz, who is also education minister, travelled to Ukraine in October 2008 and renewed an education agreement between Saskatchewan and the province of Chernivtsi.

At the beginning of this year, he was notified he would be awarded the Order of King Yaroslav the Wise by the government of Ukraine for raising awareness of Holodomor.

"That is the highest award that a non-citizen of Ukraine can receive," Warnyca noted.

The details are being finalized, but Krawetz expects he'll be presented with the award on Sept. 23 by Ihor Ostash, Ukrainian ambassador to Canada.

Warnyca, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Council, Regina branch, and Eugene Krenosky, past president of the UCC-Saskatchewan and an active participant of the International Remembrance Flame in Canada will each receive the Medal for Noble Work and Virtue at that ceremony.

Yaremko pledges $10,000 to UCCLF

(UCCLF)—Further demonstrating his commitment to the Ukrainian Canadian community, John Yaremko has pledged $100,000 over the next five years in support of the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation.

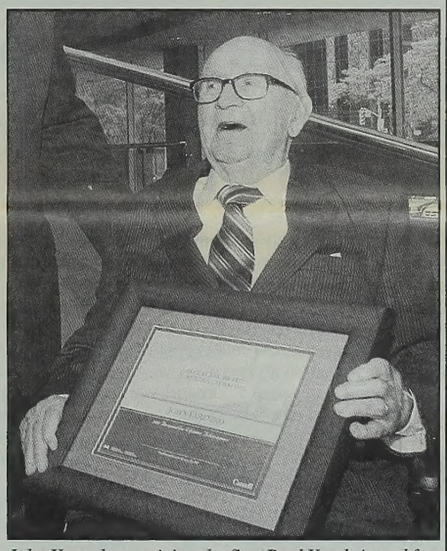
Speaking on behalf of Yaremko, his friends, Bill and Rose Sametz, confirmed that the former Ontario cabinet minister and recent recipient of the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism, who has long admired UCCLF for the work it has done in recalling Canada's first national internment operations and in promoting a better understanding of the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-33 in Soviet Ukraine (the Holodomor) has authorized this grant.

These monies will be used to further the Foundation's research, educational and community efforts, in particular by helping make it possible for students and younger professionals or those with more limited means to become engaged in various UCCLF initiatives across the country.

Speaking for the UCCLF, its chair, Edmonton's Marko Kachmar, commented:

"The generosity demonstrated by Mr. Yaremko in support of the UCCLF's work is truly remarkable. He has already given so much of himself to our community, yet here he is again making significant resources available to sustain our educational and community work for many years to come.

"On behalf of all of the students and community builders who will be able to take advantage of these funds, I would like to thank Mr. Yaremko and Rose and Bill Sametz for helping us forge ahead. Many more Canadians and others will come to better understand not only the Ukrainian experience in Canada, but also what happened to Ukrainians in the homeland during the 20th century. It will be in large measure thanks to the foresight and munificence of Mr. Yaremko. He is truly a Canadian and a Ukrainian nation-builder."



John Yaremko receiving the first Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism in Toronto, June 12.

Tymoshenko addresses UWC

Wants spiritual education in all institutions

(RISU)—Aug. 20 Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko declared that she wants to see spiritual education in all education institutions of Ukraine and give religious institutions the same status as secular ones. The internet resource "Ob'yektyvno" reported that Tymoshenko stated this during her address at the annual meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress in Lviv.

Yulia Tymoshenko

According to her, now in the Ukrainian society there is a spiritual crisis, and thus she believes spiritual lessons should be taught in all educational institutions, especially in colleges.

"And all the existing religious institutions should have the same status as secular colleges," said the prime minister.

Also, Tymoshenko mentioned that today the Ukrainian language has become fashionable. "Today the language is taught and spoken. The country has changed. The merit is ours and yours," said Tymoshenko.

Tymoshenko added that representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora did more for the defense of Ukrainian interests than even representatives from Ukraine, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Congratulations to all Ukrainians on 18 years of Independence.

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
MLA, Canora-Pelly

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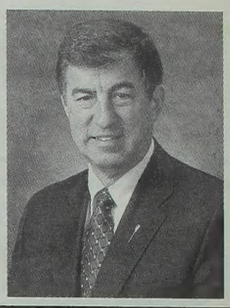
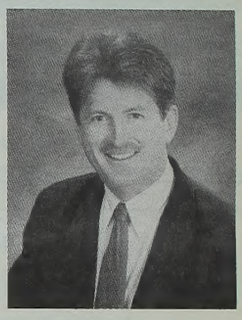


Best wishes for Ukrainian Community as they celebrate the 18th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence!

Найкращі побажання українській громаді з нагоди 18-ої річниці Незалежности України!



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Best Wishes on the 18th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

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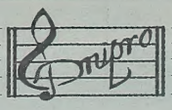

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Ющенко заветував закон про вибори Президента

(Радіо Свобода)—Президент повертає до Верховної Ради новоухвалений закон про вибори голови держави зі своїми зауваженнями, повідомила на брифінгу, 18 серпня, заступник голови Секретаріату Президента Марина Ставнійчук.

За її словами, Віктор Ющенко не може підписати цей закон, бо вважає, що він не створює ефективного механізму для реалізації волевиявлення громадян і не дасть змоги забезпечити чесні, прозорі і демократичні вибори Президента.

При цьому низку положень нового закону Ющенко підтримує, сказала Ставнійчук. Зокрема, це стосується скорочення термінів передвиборчої кампанії.

Вето Президента на цей закон очікували. Раніше і сам Ющенко, і працівники його Секретаріату кілька разів заявляли, що деякі норми закону є відступом від демократії, звужують права і свободи громадян, відкривають можливості для зловживань і слугують інтересам двох «мегапартій», БЮТ і Партії регіонів, із метою «поділити країну на двох».

Блок Юлії Тимошенко днями скликав на 21 серпня позачергову сесію Верховної Ради, щоб долати очікуване вето на закон про вибори Президента, а також уже застосоване Віктором Ющенком вето на закон про зміни до Держбюджету.

БЮТ і Партія регіонів, які разом мають досить голосів для подолання президентського вето, заявляли, що мають намір подолати його.

Президент Віктор Ющенко звернеться до Конституційного Суду, якщо Верховна Рада подолає його вето на новий закон про вибори голови держави і проігнорує його зауваження, прогнозує Ставнійчук.

За її словами, в такому разі голова держави проситиме Конституційний Суд розглянути його подання як невідкладне, щоб до початку президентської виборчої кампанії можна було сформувати законодавчу базу для нормального проведення виборів.

Вона також висловила думку, що Президент може в разі подолання вето залучити й можливості міжнародної громадськості вплинути на ситуацію.

Ющенко як гарант Конституції використовуватиме всі свої конституційні повноваження, щоб забезпечити дотримання прав і свобод громадян і проведення чесних і демократичних виборів, наголосила Ставнійчук.

Новий закон у його нинішньому вигляді створює основу для системних зловживань під час виборів і для серйозного впливу на результати голосування, додала вона.

Водночас Президент сподівається на конструктивну співпрацю з Верховною Радою і очікує, що парламент дослухається до його зауважень і пропозицій, сказала заступник голови Секретаріату.

Фракція Партії регіонів у Верховній Раді має намір голосувати за подолання президентського вето на закони про внесення змін до закону про вибори Президента і про внесення змін до державного бюджету, заявили чільні партійні діячі.

Із такими заявами виступили народний депутат, член фракції Партії регіонів Микола Азаров та народний депутат, заступник лідера фракції цієї партії Ганна Герман, яких цитують українські агентства.

Зокрема, за їхніми словами, новий закон про вибори має унеможливити фальсифікації на виборах Президента, тоді як нині чинний закон якраз створює основу для зловживань і фальсифікацій.

Львів може опинитися без міжнародного аеропорту

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Інвестиційний конкурс на будівництво пасажирського терміналу Міжнародного аеропорту «Львів» до Євро-2012 оголосили у липні, але наразі немає жодного реального претендента на проект. У Львові домінує думка, що інвесторів відлякує незрозуміла політична та економічна ситуація в Україні. Аеропорт – єдиний об'єкт у Львові, через яке місто може втратити право приймати матчі європейської футбольної першості у 2012 році.

Результати інвестиційного конкурсу планували оголосити 9 вересня. 12 серпня, був останній термін прийому заявок від інвесторів, але список бажаючих розбудувати пасажирський термінал у Львові порожній.

Загальна сума інвестиційного проекту сягає більше, ніж один мільярд гривень. За умовами проведення аукціону з відбору інвестора, затверджених Кабміном, переможець отримає в управління увесь майновий комплекс летовища. Однак інвесторові потрібна ще стабільність у державі, пояснюють оглядачі відсутність інтересу до проекту. Міністерство транспорту та зв'язку має вирішувати подальшу долю львівського аеропорту.

У Львові, зі свого боку, сподіваються на бюджетні гроші. На сьогодні викуплені майже всі земельні приватні ділянки, які відійдуть у постійне користування державного підприємства «Міжнародний аеропорт «Львів»». Територія летовища розрита і, як зазначив в коментарі Радіо Свобода начальник головного управління містобудування, архітектури та просторового розвитку Львівської облдержадміністрації Степан Лукашик, ніхто не припинятиме будівельні роботи. Адже Львову потрібен міжнародний аеропорт із якісним обслуговуванням, незалежно від проведення Євро. Бо в іншому випадку, за його словами, весь західний регіон України позбудеться перспективи.

«Як не знайдемо під державні гарантії фінансової структури, то доведеться затягувати пояс, скорочувати якісь програми загальноукраїнські, – каже Степан Лукашик. – Для України один мільярд і 100 мільйонів гривень не є трагедією. Збудувати аеропорт і термінал у Львові – це не є львівська тема, це загальноукраїнська проблема».

Фінансування львівського проекту з державної кишені поки під питанням – 10 днів тому Президент Віктор Ющенко наклав вето на Закон про внесення змін до держбюджету, яким було передбачено майже 10 мільярдів гривень на фінансування програми з підготовки до Євро-2012. На Банковій вважають, що це може розкрутити маховик інфляції в Україні. Уряд з такою критикою не погоджується і прем'єр Тимошенко запевнює, що Верховна Рада подолає це вето.

Тим часом не так далеко від Львова, менше ніж за 200 кілометрів, у польському Жешуві розташований міжнародний аеропорт. Нині щочетверга і щонеділі, жешувським аеропортом користуються близько 40 пасажирів зі Львова. В перспективі поляки збираються запровадити щоденні рейси за океан і водноас автобусні маршрути з Жешувського летовища до Львова і навпаки.

Євросоюз виділив на реконструкцію цього летовища 45 мільйонів євро. Відтак Львів через відсутність інфраструктури може втратити не лише Євро- 2012, але ще й чимало туристів.

Люблячої пам'яті Катерини Богач

2 вересня 2008 Баба приєдналася до улюбленого онука Райана Dragich, у Царстві Небесним

"Я пам'ятаю Тебе в цей урочистий час, моя дорога матір. Я пам'ятаю часи, коли Ти жила на змелі, і Твоя ніжня любов спостерігала за мною, як ангел-хоронитель. Ти відійшла від мене, однак зв'язок наших душ ніколи не буде перерваний, Твоє обличчя постійно живе в моїм серці.

Нехай милосерний Господь Бог винагородить Тебе за вірність й доброту, яку ти ніколи не показувала мені; нехай Він підніме Своє світле обличчя на Тебе щоб надати Тобі вічний мир!

Амінь".

У глибокому смутку та з любов'ю
Брюс і (Зеня) Стефанія Dragich

Пукач активно співпрацює зі слідством – генпрокурор

(Радіо Свобода)—Обвинувачений у справі вбивства журналіста Георгія Ґонґадзе колишній начальник Головного управління кримінального розшуку Департаменту зовнішнього спостереження МВС Олексій Пукач активно співпрацює зі слідством, і всі його покази зараз перевіряються, заявив генеральний прокурор Олександр Медведько, 18 серпня. Під час зустрічі з Президентом Віктором Ющенком він поінформував голову держави про останні результати досудового розслідування у справі про вбивство Ґонґадзе. За словами Медведька, минулого тижня з обвинуваченим Пукачем провели всі слідчі дії. Він вважає, що отримані дані «повністю свідчать про те, що ми на правильному шляху».

Yushchenko to skip summit of CIS leaders

(Ukrainian Journal)—President Viktor Yushchenko will "obviously" skip the next summit of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States following a sharp exchange with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn said Aug. 18.

"The decision of the Ukrainian president is quite obvious because the president of Russia said he would have a dialog only with the new leadership of Ukraine," Lytvyn said in an interview with Channel 5.

Lytvyn commented on a report in Kommersant daily that Yushchenko had decided not to attend the summit of the CIS on October 9 in Moldova after the sharp exchange with Medvedev.

Yushchneko's office declined to comment on the report.

Medvedev, in a letter to the Ukrainian president Aug. 11, accused Yushchenko of promoting "anti-Russian" policy, and announced suspending the arrival of Russia's new ambassador in Ukraine indefinitely.

In a reply, Yushchenko said he was "very disappointed" by the "unfriendly" letter, and suggested holding a bilateral meeting as soon as possible to discuss the problems. Medvedev flatly refused the idea.

The sharp exchange underscores worsening relations between Russia and Ukraine, the two biggest countries in Europe by territory, and come a year after Russia has invaded into Georgia, a pro-Western ally of Ukraine.

In years and months prior to the military incursion, Russia has been accusing Georgia and its president Mikhail Saakashvili of promoting an anti-Russian policy.

After the five-day war, Georgia has announced it will pull out from the CIS, a loose alliance of former Soviet Union states created in 1991.

The developments come as Moscow's foreign policy has become more assertive as Russia has been seeking to strengthen the alliance perhaps towards creating a union that would be de-facto controlled by the Kremlin.

Yushchenko earlier complained that the CIS has become very ineffective with Russia, the biggest trade partner in the alliance, often restricting imports of goods from other countries.

Tymoshenko, Putin to hold talks this year

(Ukrainian Journal)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and her Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Aug. 19 agreed to schedule a number of meetings this year aimed at increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Putin and Tymoshenko, who spoke by phone, agreed to hold a meeting on Sept. 1 during their trip to Poland, and scheduled another meeting in October in Kyiv, Tymoshenko's press service reported.

The plans for increasing contacts between Putin and Tymoshenko come in sharp contrast with the way the Russian leaders have been treating Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has been refusing to meet Yushchenko over the past 12 months. He also ruled out any contacts with Yushchenko through the end of January 2010.

However, the scheduled contacts between Tymoshenko and Putin suggest that Moscow has been increasingly viewing the Ukrainian prime minister as a figure that would not hurt Russian interests.

Tymoshenko and Putin will be in Poland on September 1 at an invitation of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, the press service reported.

Putin and Tymoshenko are also expected to chair a joint inter-government economic committee that will be held in Ukraine in October. The committee is supposed to discuss trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia.

The parties seek to jointly manufacture An-70, a military transportation aircraft designed by Antonov, a Kyiv-based aircraft design bureau. The plane is capable of landing and taking off from short and ground covered runways that make its use by the army.

Putin and Tymoshenko also praised the natural gas supply agreement they had negotiated in January to prevent gas supply disruptions. "The prime ministers highly praised the implementation of the agreement by both parties," the press service reported.

Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the national oil and gas company, has been relying on heavy borrowing, including from Russian gas company Gazprom and from the National Bank of Ukraine, for making monthly gas payments.

Putin said in June that Naftogaz would default on the gas payment "sooner or later," and widely expected the default in July. Naftogaz avoided the default after the NBU had lent the required amount of cash to make the payment.

Yanukovych leads in polls

(Ukrainian Journal)—Opposition leader Viktor Yanukovych is the frontrunner among candidates that are expected to run for the presidency in January 2010, according to a poll released by the Razumkov Center.

Yanukovych would defeat both Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk if he faces either of them in the runoff, according to the poll.

"If Yulia Volodymyrivna enters the runoff with Viktor Fedorovych, the latter would win," Liudmyla Shanhina, the director of social programs at Razumkov Center, wrote in an article published by Dzerkalo Tyzhnia on Aug. 8.

The poll shows no major changes in the voter preferences over the past two months, with Yanukovych still leading the crowd of potential candidates with 22% popular support.

Tymoshenko and Yatseniuk, with 13% and 11% support, respectively, would probably vie for the spot in the runoff, according to the poll.

Different runoff combinations between the three most popular candidates explored by the poll suggest that Yanukovych would probably win, while Tymoshenko would probably lose the vote.

Yanukovych would defeat Tymoshenko by 33% vs. 24% in the runoff, the poll showed. Yanukovych would also defeat Yatseniuk by 32% vs. 28%.

Should Yatseniuk square off against Tymoshenko in the runoff, the former speaker of Parliament would prevail with the margin of 26% vs. 19%, according to the poll.

Razumkov Center polled 2,006 respondents across Ukraine between July 20 and July 28, with the margin of error at 2.3%.

Incumbent President Viktor Yushchenko, who managed to double his popular support due to vigorous campaigning in July, failed to build on his advance, with the rating freezing at 4%, according to the poll.

Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko also won 4% support, followed by Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's 3%, according to the poll.

The figured show no major advances compared with an earlier poll, which was conducted by the Ukrainian Sociology Service between July 4 and July 14 and in which Yanukovych had scored 29.9%, followed by Tymoshenko's 15%, Yatseniuk's 12.8% and Yushchenko's 5.5%.

Another poll conducted in early June by Research & Branding Group showed that Tymoshenko would lose the runoff to Yanukovych by 28.8% vs. 38.8%, and to Yatseniuk by at 22.3% vs. 30.1%.

Congratulations on the 18th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

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Only Tymoshenko can beat Yanukovych

Diaspora needs to wake up to the threat of a Regions victory in the 2010 presidential elections

Commentary

By Dr. Taras Kuzio
(Senior Fellow, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Toronto, Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University, Editor, *Ukraine Analyst*)

The Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American diasporas have yet to appreciate that the upcoming Jan. 17 2010 presidential elections will be a replay of the 2004 elections. Five years ago Viktor Yushchenko faced Viktor Yanukovych in the dirtiest and bitterest election in Ukraine's history. In six months Yulia Tymoshenko will face the same Yanukovych in what will become another battle of wills between two different world views, European and Eurasian.

As with all Ukrainian presidential elections, there will be many other presidential candidates but this should not distract us from the fact that the main contest – as in 2004 – will be between the two main candidates. This time round that has to be Tymoshenko and Yanukovych.

Viktor Yushchenko has 3% support and cannot expect to win a large number of votes because Ukrainians do not believe he has fulfilled his election promises. Bandits never went to jail – they instead received state medals and high ranking state positions.

Anatoliy Hrytsenko's ratings have remained static at 1-2%.

Arseniy Yatseniuk after being removed as parliamentary speaker last November rapidly gained popularity because of public disillusionment with quarrelling Ukrainian politicians. More importantly, Yatseniuk gained popularity from free air time on Ukraine's most popular television channel Inter, courtesy of gas intermediary RosUkrEnergo co-owner Dmytro Firtash and first deputy Security Service chairman Valeriy Khoroshkovsky. Yatseniuk's campaign has increasingly become pro-Russian in its orientation, especially following its take-over by Russian political consultants in June 2009. Kyiv Mohyla Academy Professor Rostyslav Pawlenko, who headed a group of Ukrainian consultants in the Yatseniuk campaign, was removed that month.

Yatseniuk's election campaign will be undermined by Yushchenko as he will take away votes, thereby automatically ensuring Tymoshenko's entry into the second round. The voters who backed Our Ukraine in the 2006 and 2007 elections are being courted by four candidates – Yushchenko, Grytsenko, Yatseniuk, and extreme right Oleh Tyahnybok.

It is understandable that the Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American Diaspora's are disillusioned over politics and politicians in Ukraine. That is also true with Ukrainians themselves who are also quite disillusioned.

Nevertheless, disillusionment and soul searching in the Ukrainian-Canadian and Ukrainian-American Diaspora's needs to take a second place to the reality of ten threats that a Yanukovych election victory represents:

• Little Russia: Yanukovych has no Ukrainian ethnocultural awareness and sees Ukraine as firmly ensconced in the Russian sphere of influence. Yanukovych, Dmytro Tabachnyk and other Party of Regions leaders have strongly condemned the alleged "nationalist" bias in Ukrainian history and would seek to change the manner in which Ukrainian history would be taught. The Party of Regions, together with the Communist Party, voted against legislation on the Ukrainian famine. There would be no possibility of the official recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army under a Yanukovych presidency.

• Russian as a second state language: this programme was included in the Party of Regions programme for the 2006 and 2007 parliamentary elections.

• Oligarchs: a Yanukovych election victory would mean the take-over of Ukraine by the Donetsk criminal mafia. Donetsk oligarch Renat Akhmetov has a $31 billion wealth, according to Korrespondent magazine, making him the wealthiest person in Eurasia and Europe.

• Russian Orthodox Church: Increase the spiritual occupation of Ukraine by the Moscow Patriarch. Yanukovych accompanied Patriarch Kyryl everywhere in Ukraine during his August 2009 visit.

• Crimea: increase the range of powers given to the Crimean autonomous republic that could increase support for separatists. The Party of Regions initiated the successful Crimean vote in September 2008 to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states.

• Black Sea Fleet: the Party of Regions has always supported Russia's plans to seek an indefinite extension of the basing agreement for the Russian Black Sea Fleet beyond 2017.

• Single Economic Space: Yanukovych told the 2008 congress of the Unified Russia Party led by Vladimir Putin that he would support Ukraine's membership of the CIS Single Economic Space. The Single Economic Space of the CIS was signed by President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Yanukovych in 2003.

NATO: Prime Minister Yanukovych told NATO in September 2008 that Ukraine did not need a Membership Action Plan (MAP). A MAP is considered the preparatory stage for eventual membership of NATO.

• European Union (EU): the Party of Regions has never expressed any interest in implementing the Copenhagen Criteria required to join the EU. The Party of Regions is the only large party in the Ukrainian parliament which has never expressed an interest in affiliation with a Political Group in the European Parliament. Fatherland, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party are members of the European People's Party and the Socialist International respectively.

World Congress of Ukrainians: the Party of Regions has never expressed any interest in contact to, and cooperation with, the World Congress of Ukrainians. Since 2002, during the last four elections the Party of Regions and Yanukovych have revived Soviet-era attacks against "nationalism" in Western Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora.

Overriding all other considerations should be our determination to not permit the election of Yanukovych in the January 2010 presidential elections that will be primarily a contest between Tymoshenko and Yanukovych. Of the candidates who have emerged from the former "orange" camp, only Tymoshenko has the ability, charisma, determination and experience to defeat Yanukovych.

Russia continues to pull pages out of Hitler's playbook

Exactly a year ago (in the Aug. 21 to Sept. 3, 2008 issue of Ukrainian News) we published an editorial headlined "Putin pulls pages out of Hitler's playbook", which noted the historical similarities between Russia's dismemberment of Georgia in 2008 and Nazi Germany's dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in 1938. We wrote:

Just as Adolph Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia to 'protect' the ethnic Germans in the Sudetenland, so Russia's de-facto ruler Vladimir Putin marched into Georgia under the pretence of 'protecting' Russian citizens in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Like Hitler arranged for Sudeten Germans to riot in order to provoke a reaction from Czech police, giving him a pretext for invasion, so Putin arranged for South Ossetian proxy troops to fire upon Georgian villages in order to provoke a reaction from the Georgian army, giving him a pretext for invasion. Just as Hitler in occupying the Sudetenland destroyed Czechoslovak defences leaving the rest of that country vulnerable to future dismemberment and occupation, so Putin with his invasion of Georgia destroyed that country's defences and infrastructure, leaving the rest of that country vulnerable to future dismemberment and occupation.

We also wrote:

But the similarities don't end there. Hitler came to power after Germans got disillusioned with a brief and weak democratic regime, which came into being following the collapse of an empire, and revived a declining economy. Putin came to power after Russians got disillusioned with a brief and weak democratic regime, which came into being following the collapse of an empire, and revived a declining economy. Hitler railed against the "November criminals" of 1918, who had stabbed the German Army in the back and proceeded to regain territories surrendered under the Treaty of Versailles. Putin calls the demise of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century" and has proceeded to reassert Russia's control over the "near abroad". When the West failed to curb Hitler's aggression in Czechoslovakia, he next turned to Poland. Should the West fail to curb Putin's aggression in Georgia, he will next turn to Ukraine.

Most ominously these predictions are becoming true. First there was Putin's puppet, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's open letter to Viktor Yushchenko in which he accused the Ukrainian President of being 'anti-Russian" for wanting to join NATO, exporting weapons to its ally Georgia prior to Russia's invasion and plans to cooperate with Europe on the upgrading of its gas pipelines — in short anything that would protect his own country's sovereignty against Russian belligerence. The came the legislation authorizing the Russian military forces to be used in other countries for protecting the holders of Russian passports and also authorizing Russian forces to open fire for protection of its military bases on foreign soil. Since Russia has handed out tens of thousands of passports to Ukrainian citizens in Crimea and maintain a naval base on that peninsula, its intentions are very clear. This gives neo-Stalinist Russia a pretext to invade Ukrainian territory just as Nazi Germany used the pretext of protecting ethnic Germans in Danzig (today's Gdansk) to invade Poland, setting off World War II.

Many countries continue to turn a blind eye to this belligerence. This applies most particularly to those of "Old Europe" (Germany in particular), which depend upon Russia for their energy supplies. It's time they awoke to face reality. Today's Russia has become an extremely belligerent dictatorship that poses the greatest threat to world peace since Nazi Germany was defeated in World War II.

Краще заохочувати українську іміґрацію із Південної Америки

Лист до Редакції

Шановний Пане Редакторе!

В "*Українських вістях*" (6 – 19 серпня, 2009) поміщений комунікат Централі Конґресу Українців Канади, п.з. "UCC meets with Ignatieff". Там названо кілька справ, які були темою зустрічі з провідником канадської опозиції. Між ними є справа імміґрації з України до Канади. В повідомленні сказано: "We had a very fruitful discussion about immigration from Ukraine and we were delighted that Mr. Ignatieff has pledged his support for a Canadian Consulate in Lviv to facilitate greater numbers of immigrants from Ukraine..."

Чи члени Президії могли б пояснити українській канадській спільноті й українцям в Україні яка ціль їхньої такої посиленої акції очищування України від українців? Вона вже й так у часі своєї незалежности втратила понад п'ять мільйонів свого населення. Чи не краще було б звернути це зусилля на долю українців, які проживають у незавидних обставинах у Південній Америці?

Ярослав Розумний, Вінніпеґ

Wolves in sheep's clothing

Commentary

By Rostyslav Bilous

The primate of the Russian Orthodox Church characterized his visit to Ukraine as "spiritual and pastoral in nature". This "missionary" effort to lay a firm foundation of a long-term effect left undoubtedly no politician indifferent. Clearly, the effort was maid to once again reassert Moscow's religious and political influence over the splitting Orthodoxy of Ukraine. The Patriarch was quick to share his pre-conceived ideas, no different from those of the former President Putin, with his brothers in the Ôfaith". He was especially political about the Holodomor, denying its genocidal nature, and the existence of the only true religion in the form of the Russian Orthodoxy. This comes, however, as no surprise.

The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has always been a sell-out, it has always served the strong, whoever they are. The Muscovite Orthodox Church, with its center in Moscow since 1326, is largely known for having compromised itself by cooperating with the now defunct Communist government. The Russian Soviet Union has used what remained of the czarist church system as a mere handmaid of the State. No wonder, right after the end of World War II, the Exarch of the Moscow Patriarchate for North America, said that Moscow might yet become the "Third Rome," and would be the meeting place "for the entire church." Remarkably, the history of the ROC is full of examples of the faithful service of its high officials to the worldly leaders. To illustrate, Patriarch Alexis I, who had succeeded Sergius as patriarch in 1945, joined the World Peace Council, the Soviet front organization founded in 1949. He and Metropolitan Nikolai "were highly valued by the KGB [the Soviet State Security Committee] as agents of influence", according to the book *The Sword and the Shield*. In 1955, Patriarch Alexis I declared: "The Russian Orthodox Church supports the totally peaceful foreign policy of our government, not because the Church allegedly lacks freedom, but because Soviet policy is just and corresponds to the Christian ideals which the Church preaches." In the January 22, 2000, issue of *The Guardian* of London, England, dissident Orthodox priest Georgi Edelshtein is quoted as saying: "All the bishops were carefully picked so that they would work with the soviet government. All were KGB agents. It is well known that Patriarch Alexy was recruited by the KGB, under the code-name of Drozdov. Today, they are preserving the same politics that they had 20 or 30 years ago."

After World War II, the KGB, having the Russian Orthodox Church under full control, was far more concerned by the Ôsubversive' activities of those religious groups over whom it had no direct control. The largest was the Greek Catholic Church of Ukraine, which is now the Ukrainian Catholic Church. It had some 4,000,000 adherents. As the book *The Sword and the Shield* puts it, "all but two of its ten bishops, along with many thousands of priests and believers, died for their faith in the Siberian gulag [work camps]." Other targets of the KGB were the unregistered Protestant churches and Jehovah's Witnesses, which were also outside direct State control. In the late 1950's, the KGB estimated that these groups had a combined total of some 100,000 members.

The ROC has also worked hand in glove with the post-Soviet Russian government. It is all on the record how it gave its blessings to those who store and maintain Russia's nuclear arsenal, that it endorsed the war in Chechnya and wielded in return considerable political influence, and so on, and so forth. It was reported, for instance, by the newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*, that Patriarch Alexis II said during a ceremony in Christ the Savior Cathedral, Moscow: "I offer prayers to GodÉ that the nuclear weapons created by you and entrusted to you will always remain in God's hands and will only be weapons of deterrence and retaliation." The ROC has also been responsible for fomenting religious intolerance and violence toward minor, Ônon-state' religions. The Law of Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations, for example, signed by President Boris Yeltsin in September 1997, was "promoted by the Russian Orthodox Church". The law gave the church a preferred status as a "traditional" religion, along with Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. It forced many denominations to go through a difficult registration process. In 1998, Patriarch Aleksei II called for a ban on proselytizing faiths, particularly those that "try to lure people away from the religions of their ancestors". Since then, efforts to ban the so-called proselytizing faiths have continued, resulting in what has been characterized as a "religious cold war". *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a Russian newspaper with a circulation of 1,200,000, noted that the church did not like competitors.

Greed for material wealth has also been a driving force in the ROC's ÔChristian' activities. In the 1990's of the previous century the ROC's clergy could not miss the opportunity to replenish its relatively empty in the Soviet times pockets. Reportedly, priests would charge for blessing stores, apartments, bars and casinos. Cars also came in line for a blessing. Depending on the make of the car, a priest, working near a used-car market, could charge from 30,000 to 50,000 rubles ($15 to $25) for blessings, which included prayers, incense, and the sprinkling of "holy water", all of this happening in the midst of a profound economic crisis and of a rapidly increasing poverty in the whole Russia.

True, Russia has a rich religious history. Yet, the Russian Orthodox Church has always kept the Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian laity in oppression and spiritual ignorance. The Russian Orthodox Church had consorted with the czars, who had cruelly oppressed the common people. Yet at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, two hundred years after Ivan the Terrible had gained independence from the Mongols, the czar Peter Ôthe Great' formed a permanent synod, consisting of prelates presided over by the emperor or his secretary. It became a national church, a department of the civil bureaucracy of the Russian Empire, a tool to support czarism. The lack of true Christian values on the part of those who presented themselves as representatives of God contributed to conditions that formed a breeding ground for Bolshevik atheism, or the "Red Religion".

The ROC has been "part of the world that lies in the power of the Wicked one" since its very inception. The famous Russian writer Tolstoy made this observation: "I convinced myself that the doctrine of the [Russian Orthodox] church was in theory a cunning and harmful deceit, and in practice a collection of the grossest superstitions and sorcery, which completely conceals the whole meaning of the Christian teaching". We can find a similar remark in the book *The Russian Tragedy„The Burden of History*: "The Bible has never been a principal part of Russian Orthodoxy". The result, according to Russian religious scholar Sergey Ivanenko, was that "the lack of Bible knowledge of Orthodox believers has led to the fact that many parishioners of Orthodox churches are more susceptible to the influence of superstitions, occultism, and magic than unbelievers". An expert in the history of the Russian Church, Eugenius Golubinsky, once said in this regard that Russia was baptized, but not Christianized.

Thus, the Russian Orthodox Church, a mixed religious legacy of dubious nature, is nothing but a tool in the bloodthirsty hands of Russian imperialism. The present-day patriarch [Kirill] is just another hypocritical co-ruler, who is misleading and being misled by preaching a political gospel.

Merkel and Medvedev share Ukraine's Munich moment

What Others Say

Tony Halpin, *Times Online, Aug. 19, 2009*

It may come to be seen as Ukraine's "Munich moment".

With Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, beside him, President Medvedev in effect broke off relations with Ukraine's pro-Western leadership and signalled the Kremlin's intention to meddle in Ukraine's presidential elections to secure victory for the candidate most favourable to Russia.

"I do not see any prospects for re-establishing normal relations under the current political leadership," Medvedev declared after Friday's (Aug. 14) meeting with Merkel at his Black Sea residence in Sochi. "I hope Ukraine's new leadership will have many chances of considerably improving relations... this is a top foreign policy priority for us."

Merkel's response was silence. The head of the European Union's largest country offered no support for Ukraine as a democratic partner, nor defended the right of its people to choose their leaders for themselves.

Her silence was noted with surprise by Ukrainian officials and satisfaction in the Kremlin, where "Project Ukraine" is the top priority ahead of January's election. Moscow intends to undo the 2004 Orange Revolution — triggered by its hamfisted attempt to rig the last presidential election in favour of the pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovych — and bring Ukraine back within its sphere of interest.

Merkel cannot claim to have been caught unawares. Days earlier Medvedev had denounced Ukraine's leader, President Yushchenko, as anti-Russian in an open letter setting out a long list of grievances.

These included his "stubborn" pursuit of NATO membership, support for Georgia in the war over South Ossetia, and "incessant" interference with Russia's Black Sea fleet based at Ukraine's Crimean port of Sevastopol.

Medvedev accompanied his letter with a video blog shot against the backdrop of the Black Sea with what looked suspiciously like a Russian warship anchored offshore.

Crimea is a particularly touchy subject. Most Russians regard it as historically their territory and many of Crimea's residents are sympathetic to Moscow. The fleet is required to leave Ukraine by 2017 but Russia does not want to go.

This is where Medvedev's sudden focus on Ukraine turns sinister. In his letter, he described Kyiv's decision to expel two Russian diplomats, one in Odesa and the other in Sevastopol, as a "provocation unprecedented in the entire post-Soviet space".

The Times has learnt, however, that Ukraine's intelligence service established that one of the diplomats was distributing up to $100,000 a month to pro-Russian groups in the area, and the other was attempting to recruit local councillors as informers.

The fear in Kyiv is that the Kremlin will play the Crimean card in the election or later to destabilise any regime considered insufficiently pro-Russian. A Georgian-style scenario, in which troops invade to "protect" Russian citizens, cannot be ruled out. Medvedev submitted legislation to parliament last week that will give him powers to dispatch the military abroad "to defend the interests of Russia and its citizens".

At Munich in 1938, Czechoslovakia's fate was sealed by European powers too timid to resist an aggressive neighbour. Russia showed its readiness to use force in Georgia last year and now has turned its attention to Ukraine.

The EU, dependent on Russian gas, imposed no serious penalty on Moscow over Georgia. The Kremlin sees Merkel's silence as an encouraging sign that it will escape just as lightly if it succeeds in undercutting Ukraine's independence.

Russia's message to Ukraine echoes across former Soviet Union

Analysis

By Robert Coalson

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's chief of staff has denounced the "aggressive tone" of an open letter from his Russian counterpart that sent shock waves through Ukraine's political elite.

Vera Ulyanchenko accused the Russian leadership of being "hostage to old imperialist complexes" and capable of speaking to its neighbors only "in the language of insults and threats."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin countered by saying the missive reflects Moscow's "concern" about deteriorating relations, accusing Ulyanchenko of "willfully misinterpreting" Medvedev's message.

In the letter, Medvedev accuses Kyiv of adopting policies intended to undermine a 1997 bilateral agreement on friendship and partnership, and says he hopes "the new political leadership of Ukraine" that emerges after the presidential election in January takes steps to improve relations.

Medvedev offers a litany of specific complaints against Yushchenko, including the claim that Kyiv provided arms to Georgia in the run-up to the war in the Caucasus last August and that Ukraine is "distorting" Soviet history by insisting the Great Famine of the 1930s was an act of "genocide" against Ukrainians. He also complains that Yushchenko's government is suppressing the Russian language and "obstructing" the activities of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, which is based in the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol.

"I am certain that new times will come. But in the current situation, I have decided not to send our ambassador to Ukraine," Medvedev says in a video blog post filmed at Medvedev's Black Sea residence in Sochi. "He will begin work later. Exactly when will be determined by the real dynamics of our relations."

Medvedev goes on to say he's "certain that the multifaceted connections between Russia and Ukraine will return, and on a qualitatively new level — on the level of strategic partnership."

"Such times are not far off," Medvedev adds, "I hope that the new Ukrainian leadership will be ready for this."

Medvedev's blunt message comes shortly after a controversial 10-day visit to Ukraine by Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, a trip that was marred by protests by Ukrainian nationalists and complaints that the visit was part of an attempt to exert Russian authority in Ukraine.

It also comes as politicians in Ukraine prepare for the country's Jan. 17 presidential election. Opinion polls show Yushchenko with just 4 percent support, trailing Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko by 10 percent and Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych by 20 percent.

Many observers see Medvedev's initiative as an attempt to influence the campaign and the election.

"This is an attempt to make a direct and forceful intervention in Ukraine's domestic politics, and this is an open attempt to give Russia's aggressive politics a decisive influence on the outcome of the upcoming elections in Ukraine," says Andro Barnov, the head of the Institute for Strategy and Development in Tbilisi. "Russia has much more resources and leverage in Ukraine than in Georgia, and so the possibility that this Russian policy will be successful there can not be excluded."

Marek Siwiec, a Polish member of the European Parliament, echoes that sentiment.

Cont. on Page 8

Congratulations on Ukraine's 18th Anniversary of Independence!

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Patriarch Kirill visit intended to assert Russian domination

By Pavel Korduban

(RFE/RL)—Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill visited Ukraine from July 27 – Aug. 5 in order to suppress the pro-independence mood among the local clergy and more broadly, to assert Russian religious and cultural domination. Kirill made it clear that he would oppose plans, backed by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, to create a local Orthodox church fully independent of Russia more energetically than his predecessor Alexy II. Kirill also allowed Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych to use his visit to benefit Yanukovych's presidential election campaign, which indicates that Moscow will probably back his bid as it did in 2004.

During his visit Kirill ostentatiously ignored the rival Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate (UPTs-KP), although UPTs-KP Patriarch Filaret wanted to meet him. Adding insult to injury, Kirill acted as if UPTs-KP did not exist at all. Strictly speaking, this is the case from the point of view of the Moscow church as Filaret was excommunicated after he split from the Moscow church in 1992. UPTs-KP is still not officially recognized by the rest of the Orthodox world.

Yushchenko supports UPTs-KP, viewing it as the basis for establishing a single Ukrainian Orthodox church independent from Moscow patriarchs and Russian cultural influences. This would perfectly fit his idealistic model of a monolingual and monocultural Ukraine distanced from Russia as much as possible, which he has pursued since his election as president in 2004. This ideal is impossible to achieve in the modern world, and the same is probably true of Yushchenko's dream of a nationwide independent church. Yushchenko failed to persuade Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to recognize UPTs-KP last year as this would have spoilt relations between Bartholomew and the world's largest Orthodox church in Russia, and Kirill flatly dismissed Yushchenko's arguments.

When Yushchenko told Kirill that it is important to establish a single Orthodox church in Ukraine as this is also an issue of national sovereignty, Kirill said that such a church already exists and this is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate (UPTs-MP). Kirill also said he was a patriarch for all the eastern Orthodox Christians regardless of their nationality or party affiliation. In line with Moscow's official rhetoric, Kirill spoke a lot about the common roots of Russia and Ukraine dating back to the medieval Kyiv Rus. One of his chief ideologists, Andrey Kuraev, was more outspoken, threatening Ukraine with a civil war should a single church fully independent from Moscow ever be established.

In order to support the claim that he controls a single Ukrainian church rather than the church of the eastern and southern parts of the country where the Russian language and culture dominates, Kirill challenged UPTs-KP in its stronghold, the nationally-minded western Ukraine, visiting the regions of Rivne and Lutsk. Yushchenko's secretariat reportedly warned him against the visit as UPTs-KP supporters planned protests there. Kirill used the warning to give an impression among believers with the help of the mass media that he was not welcome by Ukrainian officials, although the Ukrainian police and security service hurried to say that they did not advise Kirill against the visit. Once Kirill eventually arrived in western Ukraine, the pro-Kremlin mass media in Russia and Ukraine's most popular TV channel Inter, which also openly backs Yanukovych's election campaign, presented this as Kirill's moral victory.

Yushchenko's dream of an independent church may be achieved only if UPTs-KP unites with the more numerous UPTs-MP. Kirill did everything possible during his visit to put an end to discussions about a possible unification with Filaret's church among UPTs-MP clergy in Ukraine. He asserted that the Russian church should remain single "here and in the whole world." "We should be united around a common idea and the idea of autocephaly [independence] is not a common idea," he said in Kyiv.

Kirill made it clear that he would reduce the role of UPTs-MP aging head Metropolitan Volodymyr in order to increase his own control of the local church. The Zerkalo Nedeli weekly said that Kirill promoted two Ukrainian regional archbishops to metropolitans, demonstratively breaking the tradition according to which such promotions were the responsibility of Volodymyr. UPTs-MP spokesman Archbishop Mitrofan said after Kirill's departure to Moscow that discussions about the church's autocephaly were over.

Demonstrating that he views Ukraine as part of the Russian space, Kirill ostentatiously refused to discuss local Ukrainian issues at the first ever sitting of the Russian synod in Kyiv. At the same time, he reported on a recent meeting of Russian religious leaders with President Dmitry Medvedev. Immediately on returning from Kyiv, Kirill met Medvedev to tell him that the "spiritual unity" existing between Russia and Ukraine "for millennia" "became a basic value that is not affected by political considerations".

Yanukovych used Kirill's visit to the fullest extent. He met Kirill in Kyiv and accompanied him on a visit to his stronghold of Donetsk. Yanukovych compared himself favorably to the government of Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Yanukovych alleged that they, "interfere in the affairs of the church, which is inadmissible, politicize religious matters and try to dictate to believers in which church to pray". Tymoshenko's adviser Oleh Medvedev described Kirill's tour as a visit of an imperialist who preached the neo-imperialist Russian World doctrine.

Russia's message to Ukraine echoes across former Soviet Union

Cont. from Page 7

"[This is] the beginning of the Russian involvement in the election process in Ukraine," Siwiec says. "I think the language of imperial policies is very well recognized in Europe. The Russians want to be active in the presidential election process and they demonstrate it. That's it."

But former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk dismisses such concerns, saying it's the voters — not the Kremlin — who will decide who the next president of Ukraine will be.

"God forbid that our relations should come to a conflict, to a confrontation, or bring about a situation where people are suffering because there is no heat in their homes, where rather than working on overcoming our economic crisis we are worrying about how to please Russia and Russia is thinking how to change the ruling powers in Ukraine," Kravchuk tells RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service. "The Ukrainian people will vote for that president, which it wants to elect. This is our right and Russia must accept this, just as we must accept what is happening at the highest level of Russian politics. This is not our business, just as it's not Russia's business to dictate to Ukraine."

Still, most observers are taking Medvedev's signal seriously. Russia's "Nezavisimaya gazeta" wrote on Aug. 12 that Medvedev is sending "an unambiguous message to pro-Russian forces in the neighboring country: Moscow would like to see the Ukrainian government re-formed." The moderate daily added that the capitals of all the other former Soviet states are watching these developments closely and warned that such actions could "lead to our close and not-so-close partners distancing themselves further from Russia."

Writing the previous week in "The Moscow Times," former Duma Deputy Vladimir Ryzhkov argued that "Russia's leaders have managed to alienate even its strongest allies." He discusses Moscow's "policy failures" vis-a-vis Belarus, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. In Ukraine, Ryzhkov wrote, "Moscow's actions have helped consolidate Ukrainian society around an anti-Russian platform."

Russian political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin, however, says Medvedev's letter is primarily aimed at a domestic audience. He says the Kremlin feels the situation at home — he mentions the violence in the North Caucasus and growing discontent at the economic crisis worsens and unemployment rises — is "getting out of control." As a result, Oreshkin says, Russia's leaders are resorting to the old tactic of building domestic support by convincing Russians their country is surrounded by enemies.

"Over the last few years, we are constantly being encouraged to hate some enemy — [whether] it is Estonia, or Georgia, or Belarus, or, now, Ukraine," Oreshkin says.

Oreshkin adds that, most likely, Medvedev's open letter to Yushchenko is only the beginning of a new period of heightened tensions.

"I think that since Russia's leaders have decided to ratchet things up like this, this is only the first step and most likely there will be some further steps to come," Oreshkin says.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian, Russian, and Georgian services contributed to this report.

Soviet-era documents shed light on suppression of UGCC

By Brian Whitmore

(RFE/RL)—Patriarch Kirill's recent high-profile visit to Ukraine was interrupted by an unwanted visitor from the past: Josef Stalin's ghost.

A five-decade-old letter from the Soviet Communist Party archives, made available to RFE/RL's Russian Service as Kirill was wrapping up his 10-day visit to Ukraine, illustrates the extent to which the patriarch's predecessors were involved in Stalin's efforts to wipe out the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in the 1940s.

The letter, from then-Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksy I to the head of the Soviet Council on Religious Affairs, Georgy Karpov, was dated Dec. 7, 1945, when the Kremlin was consolidating control over territories in heavily Catholic western Ukraine after World War II. Karpov was a colonel in the NKVD, a predecessor to the Soviet KGB.

In the letter, Aleksy informs Karpov of an "initiative group" that was being formed in Greek-Catholic dioceses in western Ukraine that would pressure clergy to agree to disband their church and convert to Orthodoxy.

"More than 800 priests have already joined the initiative group, and it is expected that by the New Year the entire clergy will have done so with the exception of a small number of diehards," Aleksy wrote.

At the time of the letter, all of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church's bishops had been either imprisoned or exiled, making the clergy especially vulnerable to pressure as Stalin sought to eradicate the Vatican's influence.

"What strikes me most about that letter is that, within the context of the particular power relationships that were in place, [Patriarch Aleksei I] really sounds like he was trying to give a semblance of ecclesiastical credibility to what was otherwise clearly a blatant act of state intervention in Church affairs," says Andrii Krawchuk, the former president of the University of Sudbury in Ontario, Canada and the author of the book "Christian Social Ethics in Ukraine."

In another letter, published by the Austrian Catholic news agency Kathpress, Nikita Khrushchev, then a member of the Soviet Politburo and a high-ranking Ukrainian Communist Party official, informed Stalin of "work undertaken to dismember the [Ukrainian Greek-Catholic] church and transfer the...clergy to the Orthodox Church." That letter was dated Dec. 17, 1945, just 10 days after Aleksy's correspondence.

Father Ihor Yatsyv, press secretary for the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Lubomyr Husar, tells RFE/RL's Russian Service that the documents shed important light on efforts by Soviet authorities to liquidate Catholicism in western Ukraine.

"The most important thing this letter illustrates is that these initiative groups were not established by the Greek-Catholic dioceses themselves, as had been previously claimed, but rather that they were inspired by the Soviet authorities," Yatsyv says.

Stalin allowed the Russian Orthodox Church, which had been suppressed following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, to operate officially again from 1943 — albeit under tight Soviet supervision — in an effort to intensify patriotic support for the authorities during World War II and after.

"In Stalin's regime the idea was to subsume everything into one centralized aegis, namely the Russian Orthodox Church, which itself was subject to strict controls and even repression by the state," Krawchuk says.

The letters came to light as Patriarch Kirill was completing a visit to Ukraine amid criticism that the Russian Orthodox leader was carrying out the Kremlin's political agenda to bring Russia's southern neighbour back under Moscow's control.

In controversial remarks on Ukrainian television on July 28, Kirill said Russians and Ukrainians were one and the same people. He also called on Ukrainians not to forsake their values in the pursuit of closer ties with Europe.

Yatsyv was critical of Kirill's conduct during his visit, which took place from July 12-Aug.t 5, which he said "was more political than religious," and suggested that he saw echoes of Moscow's past attempts to dominate Ukraine.

"One would expect a politician from Russia or some other country that wants to establish a sphere of influence in Ukraine to use such a tone. If it is a spiritual person, the head of a church, he should be addressing spiritual and moral issues," Yatsyv says.

Yatsyv says the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church had no role in leaking the Stalin-Khrushchev letter to Kathpress. He says, however, that after the publication the church discovered that it had a copy of the letter, which it has since posted on its website.

In a meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev upon returning to Moscow, Kirill called his visit to Ukraine "one of the most striking memories of my patriarchal service" and appealed for closer ties between Moscow and Kyiv.

"We must do everything we can to ensure that our people always feel a mutual closeness, while respecting the sovereignty of nations and taking into account the reality of modern politics," Kirill said.

"The people of Russia and Ukraine should feel comfortable in this common spiritual space, being a part of different nations and being the citizens of different states, but still being the sons and daughters of the Russian Orthodox Church."

Medvedev responded that "in spite of what has happened and in spite of our division into separate states, the special brotherly relations between our peoples must remain, regardless of who is in power."

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, which was formed by the Union of Brest in 1596, is under the authority of the Vatican but observes Byzantine rites similar to those of the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is considered an important component of national identity in western Ukraine.

According to documents from Ukrainian archives, obtained by RFE/RL's Russian Service, Stalin's security chief Lavrentiy Beria, the head of the NKVD, approved the decision to liquidate the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in January 1941.

Those plans, however, were delayed when Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941. The Soviet Union regained control over western Ukraine in the summer of 1944.

Initially, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic bishops were asked by Soviet authorities to endorse a union with the Russian Orthodox Church, but all of them refused — and were subsequently arrested and sent into internal exile.

Under the supervision of Soviet authorities, new, more pliant, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic bishops were ordained, but this was never recognized by the Vatican.

In March 1946, just three months after the Aleksy-Karpov and Khrushchev-Stalin letters, the clergy who had joined the initiative group convened in the Western Ukrainian city of Lviv to annul the Union of Brest, dissolve the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, merge its clergy with the Russian Orthodox Church, and turn its property over to the Moscow Patriarchate.

Some clergy, however, went underground to keep the faith alive, conducting services in forests and in homes. The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church remained underground until for more than four decades until December 1989, during Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's liberalization, when it was allowed again to function officially.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and Vladimir Tolz of RFE/RL's Russian Service contributed to this report

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Ukrainian Day draws 3,400

Cont. fromPage 1

heroic efforts, where once there was totalitarianism, we now see people living in a free nation," Benoit added.

He noted that in his role as President for Canada NATO Parliamentarians "my colleagues and I have strongly promoted Ukraine's accession into NATO."

"Why is this important? Why is it important for Ukraine to become a member of NATO? The first reason is obvious. The protection which NATO offers from Russian intrusion is so important to the people of Ukraine. But the other part of the answer is this; that to become a member of NATO the aspiring member must meet strict standards for democracy within the country, for respect for the rule of law (having an acceptable judicial system) and respecting human rights. Once Ukraine meets these standards they will be allowed to become a member of NATO but will also be in a position to move ahead to become a much stronger nation with a better quality of life for her people," said Benoit.

He also quoted Prime Minister Stephen Harper as saying "the special relationship between Canada and Ukraine is a strong and growing bond – it is a bond made all the stronger thanks to the efforts of Canadians of Ukrainian heritage – and a friendship of which all Canadians should be proud."

Speaking on behalf of the provincial government, Aboriginal Relations Minister and Deputy Government House Leader Gene Zwozdesky noted the many areas in which his government promotes Ukrainian language and culture. This includes providing funding for the village itself, the genealogical program, scholarships for student exchanges and the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations which he co-chairs with Bonnyville-Cold Lake MLA Genia Leskiw.

"We take forward concern that the Ukrainian community has to enhance relations with Ukraine and make then better and encourage future development," he noted.

Former teacher Zwozdesky paid particular attention to the Ukrainian Bilingual Program, pledging that "this is something we will continue to fund and support and help grow".

Daria Luciw, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council, which organized the day-long event along with village staff noted that preparations have already begun for both the 120th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada in 2011 and the even bigger 125th anniversary celebrations planned for 2016.

She also expressed the hoped that the new building for the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) will be completed soon.

David Ruptash, Chair of the Ukrainian Advisory Committee for the minister of culture, read a moving poem about good fortune.

Entertainment at the afternoon concert included Zorepad with their blend of traditional and contemporary Ukrainian music (members: Mykola Nykyforuk, keys and vocals; Bohdana Klymkiv, vocals; Scott Schpeley, drums and vocals; Timmish Horbay, bass; and Bohdan Tarasenko, guitar; Stephania Romaniuk, a classically-trained Canadian soprano of Ukrainian heritage, who is gaining a reputation as an expressive storyteller; Charlie Sakuma, a Bandura player of Japanese descent who has been enthralled and amazed with Ukrainian dance and culture; Grande Prairie's, Troyanda Dancers and Maryka Chabluk, one-half of the Winnipeg-based Duet Maryna, who perform Ukrainian folk music ranging from the traditional to the contemporary offering entertainment with universal appeal.

The Master of ceremonies was Steven Chwok, host of CFCW's Zabava Program.

The day opened with a Pancake Breakfast hosted by UCAMA with proceeds going towards the continued development of the new Jasper Avenue facility, followed by Church Services at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and St. Nicholas Russo-Greek Orthodox Church.

These were followed by two other memorial services, the first dedicated to the unveiling of new name plaques at the Centenary Monument, the second honouring War Veterans at the Royal Canadian Legion Monument.

The Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts returned with their Ukrainian Community Showcase at the Sil'ska Domivka as well as two tents with traditional Ukrainian craft workshops.

Other features included "A Taste of Ukraine" Food Fair. Children's Games & Free Face painting. A petting zoo, the Luchkovich Award Presentation and exhibit of paintings by Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn, the Village Market with its own musical entertainment and Maryka's Treasure, a children's interactive program.

A new feature for this year's Ukrainian Day was the Kozak Games.

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Above Left: Stephania Romaniuk; Right: Maryka Chabluk. On Facing Page Tio: Honour Guard proceeds during the War veterans' Memorial: Bottom: Zorepad.

ALL PHOTOS — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Yewchuk receives Luchkovich Award

Calls for greater immigration of Ukrainians to Canada

(UkrNews)—The 2009 recipient of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council's Michael Luchkovich Award called for measures to increase Ukrainian immigration to Canada, in his acceptance speech during Ukrainian Day, Aug. 9.

Paul Yewchuk, who served as MP for Athabasca from 1968 to 1980 noted that when his parents arrived to settle on a farm near Bonnyville, 80 years ago, Ukrainians were actively encouraged to immigrate to Canada by the government of Canada and came by the thousands.

"They came and they settled the Prairies. Ukrainians have made their mark and their contribution throughout Canadian life, first in agriculture, then in the trades, then in professions, then business, then politics," he said.

"They've taken their place in the mainstream of Canadian society and proven themselves to be some of the best immigrants possible. Today what's happened? They came by the thousands and today it's down to a trickle."

He attributed this to changes in the immigration laws such as that requiring English and/or French language knowledge.

"Canada's been good to us but we've been good for Canada too," he added noting the contributions Ukrainians have made to Canadian society.

Yewchuk recommended dropping the language requirements, along with other proposals.

The Michael Luchkovich, is presented annually for outstanding public service by a parliamentarian of Ukrainian origin

It is named after the first Ukrainian Member of Parliament.

During his time with the Official Opposition in Parliament, Yewchuk served as the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Critic, Multiculturalism Critic and Health Critic from 1969-1979.

He was also Chairman of the Alberta Caucus (House of Commons) from 1972-1974, Member of the PC National Executive Committee from 1973-1975, Member of the PC National Policy Advisory Committee from 1969 to 1972 and was involved with the Canada – United States launching of communications satellite in Cape Canaveral, Houston in 1972.

UCC - APC President Daria Luciw presents the Michael Luchkovic Award to Paul Yewchuk.

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Спекотного дня в селі Нижнє Болотне, що в Іршавському районі на Закарпатті, ховали Йосипа Терелю – людину дивовижної долі, яка могла б стати героєм захоплюючих пригодницьких сюжетів. У своєму заповіті відомий політичний в'язень, борець за права віруючих в Україні просив повернути його на рідну землю. Труну з тілом було доставлено в липні цього року на Батьківщину з Торонто, де він жив останні 22 роки і помер у 65-літньому віці.

На сільському цвинтарі небіжчика проводжали в останню дорогу земляки, місцеві священики, канадійці – вдова Олександра, друзі покійного. Як розповідав мені приятель Йосипа Юрій Москаль, мешканець Оквілла, на траурному мітингу лунали слова про несхитність віри Йосипа Терелі у відродження й розбудову греко-католицької церкви, щасливу будучність незалежної України.

Народився Йосип Тереля в 1943 році у селі Келечин на Закарпатті в родині ідейних комуністів. Батько у роки Другої світової війни боровся з нацистами у лавах югославських партизанів, згодом заснував один з перших у Закарпатті колгоспів. Мати закінчила Вищу партійну школу у Києві. Йосипа виховувала бабуся по батьківській лінії, розповідала про заборонену Українську греко-католицьку церкву, прилучала його до віри в Бога. За неприховану релігійність малого Йосипа тричі виключали зі школи, звинувачуючи у "хуліганстві". За відверту агітацію щодо відновлення в Україні греко-католицької церкви Тереля майже 23 роки (з 1962 по 1987 роки з невеликими перервами) провів у радянських тюрмах, таборах і психіатричних лікарнях. Першою його тюрмою була Ужгородська, де він відсидів чотири роки. У 1976 році Тереля пише відкритого листа протесту керівнику КДБ Ю. Андропову. Під назвою "Нотатки з будинку для божевільних" це послання було опубліковано в США.

Згадую, як під час знайомства з Йосипом в Торонто з подивом і водночас зі співчуттям слухав його розповіді про дев'ятиразові успішні втечі з місць позбавлення волі. "Все я чинив з чистою совістю, - мовив Йосип, - бо жодного злочину не скоїв". Як зазначав він, функціонери КДБ визнавали, що "Терелю легше вбити, ніж посадити".

У тюрмах і таборах внутрішня охорона нацьковувала на нього інших в'язнів, спонукаючи їх вибити з непокірного "бандерівський дух", хоч Йосип не мав нічого спільного з ОУН. Його часто безпідставно тримали у карцерах. У 1968 році 25-річного в'язня паралізувало у мордовському "Дубровлагу". У психіатричних лікарнях примусово лікували важкими психотропними препаратами, призначеними для цілковитої деградації особистості.

Та Йосип витримав, вистояв і не скорився, не зрікся своїх поглядів, своєї віри. Як колись стверджував американський дипломат і поет Джеймс Лоуелл, "тільки та віра довго живе і не тьмяніє під бурями, яка зіткана з глибокого переконання". Афоризм, народжений у 19-му столітті, повністю стосується Йосипа Терелі. Нечасто буває так, щоб в одній людині зустрілися й органічно поєдналися мужність і доброта, твердість характеру й ніжність душі.

† Йосип Тереля

У 1991 році в США вийшла книга американського публіциста Майкла Брауна, написана у співпраці з Йосипом Терелею. Це видання мало назву "Свідок привидів і переслідувань в СРСР". Журналіст, зокрема, писав: "Я ніколи не зустрічав людину, подібної до нього, міцнішої, аніж він. Тереля над усе присвятив себе церкві і своїй батьківщині – Україні… Він не був самою досконалістю. Але виявився героєм. Важко бути прекрасною людиною, коли ти був свідком багатьох убивств, і твоя молодість була вкрадена у тебе". Ще одна книга цього автора "Труба Гавриїла" про страждання Терелі стала бестселером у США.

У короткі відтинки часу, поміж арештами і примусовим лікуванням, Йосип писав статті, художні твори, займався громадською роботою. У 1982 році заснував "Ініціативну групу захисту прав віруючих і Церкви на Україні" та став її першим головою. Нелегальним шляхом надсилав листи до Ватикану з проханням звернути увагу на важке становище української Церкви, видавав "Хроніку католицької церкви в Україні".

Західні владні кола зацікавилися трагічною долею дисидента. Політичний притулок йому запропонували Нідерланди, Франція, США і Канада. У 1987 році, після офіційної зустрічі Горбачова і Рейгана, Терелі допомагають переселитися до Канади. У літаку до країни кленового листа Йосипа, його першу дружину Олену (нині покійна), трьох дітей – Павла, Калину і Мар'яну супроводжував тодішній міністр закордонних справ Канади Джо Кларк.

У Канаді та інших країнах Тереля виступає з промовами на різних мітингах і конференціях, зокрема у Білому Домі, Ватикані, засуджуючи переслідування віруючих в СРСР, заборону українського церковного руху. Як проповідник подорожує світом, побував у США, Ірландії, Великій Британії, Росії, Індонезії, Мексиці, на Кубі та Філіппінах. Всюди промовляв українською мовою. Його слова про Бога, Церкву, віру й Україну доносили до слухачів перекладачі.

У Канаді Йосип багато малює, його картини – живопис, графіка, іконопис могли б скласти окрему повноцінну виставку. Тереля видає журнал "Хрест", пише філософсько-богословські твори, що увійшли до книжок "Свідок", "Царство духа", "Щоб усі були одно", "Тіло і Кров", перекладені різними мовами.

Кілька разів ми зустрічалися з Йосипом у Києві. Він привозив гуманітарну допомогу літнім людям і дітям у сиротинцях, в'язням у тих тюрмах і таборах, де сам колись провів у неволі свої молоді роки. Разом з владикою Романом Даниляком, тодішнім головою Товариства об'єднаних українських канадців Юрієм Москалем Йосип Тереля повернув Україні ікону Охтирської Богоматері, вивезену свого часу нацистами до Європи. Ділився своїми думами, волів, аби його літературна, малярська творчість стала надбанням Батьківщини. Пам'ятаю, як він тішився, коли Український фонд культури у Києві відзначив його за публіцистичні виступи Міжнародною премією імені В. Винниченка.

На жаль, сьогодні ім'я незламного правозахисника значно менше відоме в Україні, ніж у багатьох інших державах. За словами його рідних і друзів у Канаді, архіви Йосипа Терелі чекають на повернення на Батьківщину.

Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh sponsors Hrushevsky volume

(CIUS)—The well-known patron of Ukrainian studies and culture, Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh, who recently donated $1 million to the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, has undertaken to sponsor volume 9, book 2, part 2 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's History of Ukraine-Rus'. She is dedicating the volume to the memory of her parents Dr. Adolf and Olha Slyz.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh was born in Kolomyia in Western Ukraine in 1922 and spent her childhood in the historic city of Belz, before moving with her family to Lviv in 1933. She attended the Ukrainian Academic Gymnasium in Lviv, but after the Soviet occupation of Western Ukraine fled with her family and finished her secondary school in Kholm. She completed her medical studies in Munich in 1949 and emigrated with her family to the United States in 1950. She practiced as a pediatrician in Kankakee, Illinois. In 1959 she married Dr. Rudolf Fischer, who was born in Straubing, Bavaria, and completed his medical studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Dr. Fischer passed away in 1982.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh now resides in Toronto. She is a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) in Chicago, head of the Friends of the Academic Gymnasium in the Diaspora, and a member of the board of the Canadian Society of the Friends of Ukraine. She is also a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the League of Ukrainian Philanthropists. A generous donor to numerous scholarly undertakings in Ukraine and Canada, she has made the largest donation in the history of the Ukrainian Catholic University, an institution that is cooperating with CIUS in the new Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Society and History.

Drs. Rudolf Fischer and Maria Fischer-Slysh.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh's donation of $100,000 to the Hrushevsky Translation Project will make possible the completion of volume 9, book 2, part 2. The volume is the last in Hrushevsky's account of Bohdan Khmelnytsky's hetmancy. The volume was translated by Marta Olynyk. Dr. Yaroslav Fedoruk and Dr Frank Sysyn serve as scholarly editors of the volume, and Myroslav Yurkevich is the managing editor. The volume will be published by CIUS Press in 2010.

Reissuing of *Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine*

(CIUS)—Since Ukrainian independence, the religious situation and religious relations in Ukraine have been the focus of international attention. The rebirth of Churches and religious institutions has been accompanied by vigorous competition for the loyalty of Ukraine's believers. The visit of Pope John Paul II to Ukraine and current visit of the newly elected Patriarch of Moscow, Kirill, testify to the centrality of Ukraine both in the Catholic and Orthodox worlds. Ecclesiastical affairs, above all the allegiance of Orthodox believers, have greatly influenced the processes of state-building and nation-building in Ukraine

CIUS Press has published a number of monographs and collections of essays on problems of religious history by authors and editors such as Ihor Sev_enko, Yaroslav Isaievych, Geoffrey Hosking, Andrij Krawczuk, Paul R. Magocsi, Bohdan Bociurkiw, and David Goa. To those interested in the current religious situation in Ukraine, the volume of essays by Serhii Plokhy and Frank E. Sysyn, entitled *Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine*, has been especially welcome. The over 15 reviews of the volume have praised this edition as a greatly needed authoritative work on modern religious affairs in Ukraine.

The internationally renowned specialist on religious affairs Michael Bourdeaux evaluated the volume in the *Slavic Review* in the following manner: "Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has been called the 'sleeping giant' of Europe—one of the continent's most populous nations, but one that has so far had minimal impact on international affairs. Far too little is being published, whether in the realm of scholarly studies or in the press, about this vast new independent country. *Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine* is, therefore, not only a welcome addition to the literature, but an excellent book in its own right. As scholars conversant with Ukraine will know, the names of Serhii Plokhy and Frank E. Sysyn guarantee the quality of the work. Each has a profound insight into the complex issues facing the country today."

The specialist on religious groups in contemporary Ukraine, above all the Protestants, Catherine Wanner, characterized the topic and volume thusly: "It was not until the late 1980s that many scholars from a plethora of disciplines were forced to concede that they had underestimated the importance of nationality issues, and especially of religion, as forces shaping Soviet history. Few scholars engaged the dynamic interaction of nationality and religion as they played out historically in politics and the daily life of Soviet citizens. The two authors of this book went against this trend and have over the years amassed a distinguished record of scholarship in the fields of Ukrainian history and of religious life over the centuries in this strategically important borderland."

These and over ten other reviews of this book can be read on the CIUS Press web site at www.utoronto.ca/cius/publications/books/religionnation.htm.

CIUS Press has decided to respond to the ongoing demand for this book by scholars and a wider public interested in religious affairs in Ukraine and the Eastern Christian world by reissuing Serhii Plokhy and Frank E. Sysyn's *Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine*. The book is available in a paperback edition for $29.95 and in hardcover for $39.95 (plus taxes and shipping; outside Canada prices are in U.S. dollars).

Readers interested in matters of Ukrainian religious life can also take advantage of a limited-time opportunity to purchase Bohdan R. Bociurkiw's authoritative scholarly study of the process of dissolution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine by the Soviet authorities: *The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Soviet State (1939–1950)*, hardcover edition; discounted price: $23.97 (reg. $39.95). 20 reviews of this book can be found at http://tinyurl.com/mcd5e3.

Orders for both books can be placed via the secure on-line ordering system of CIUS Press at www.utoronto.ca/cius or by contacting CIUS Press, 430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2H8; tel: (780) 492-2973; e-mail: cius@ualberta.ca.

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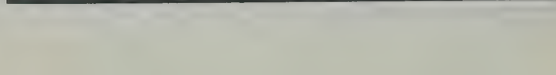

Декомунізація України необхідна

Андрій Олійник

9 листопада 1989 року о 7:30 вечора уряд Східної Німеччини оголосив, що дозволить всім своїм громадянам відвідувати Західний Берлін "за спрощеними візами". Відразу на перепускних пунктах до Західного Берліну почали збиратися натовпи людей. Східно-німецька поліція спочатку спробувала їх розігнати, але людей збиралось все більше й більше, і врешті охоронці кордону відійшли набік, а натовпи людей з обидвох боків Берлінської стіни об'єдналися в спонтанному святкуванні. Того ж вечора групи молодих людей повилазили на стіну і почали молотками відбивати від неї кавалки. За кілька тижнів з того символу комуністичного режиму мало що залишилося.

А тепер перенесімося до Києва, літо 2009 року. Як вже широко повідомлялося, 30 червня в центрі Києва група українських патріотів (Андрій Тарасенко, Микола Коханівський, Олександр Задорожний, Іван Срібний та Богдан Франт) пошкодила пам'ятник катові українського народу Ульянову-Лєніну. За цей вчинок їх було тимчасово ув'язнено в Шевченківському районному відділі внутрішніх справ міста Києва. Адвокат п'ятірки, Сидір Кізін повідомив, що проти них порушено кримінальну справу за двома статтями Кримінального кодексу - "Хуліганство" та "Незаконне пошкодження об'єктів культурної спадщини національного значення". Санкція передбачає до 5-ти років позбавлення волі. Суд мав би відбутися наприкінці серпня або на початку вересня.

За словами адвоката, хлопці керувалися ідейними мотивами, що не підпадають під ознаки хуліганства, а сам пам'ятник підлягає демонтажу на підставі Закону України «Про Голодомор 1932—1933 років в Україні», Указу Президента України «Про заходи у зв'язку з 75-ми роковинами Голодомору 1932—1933 років в Україні», Указу Президента України «Про додаткові заходи щодо вшанування пам'яті жертв Голодомору 1932—1933 років в Україні». Відповідно до зазначених нормативних актів, підлягають демонтажу пам'ятники та инші об'єкти архітектури, які возвеличують осіб, що причетні до Голодомору та політичних репресій проти українського народу. Чимширша підтримка громадськости, як в Україні, так і поза її межами, не дозволить судовим органам Києва перевести цю суто політичну і патрійотичну акцію в кримінальну площину, як це зазвичай робилося за совєтських часів. Коли внуки і правнуки закатованих більшовицькими і сталінськими злочинцями українців підняли руку на бовван більшовицького "фюрера", то це не злочин, а акт патрійотизму і відновлення історичної справедливости, як би це не трактувало чинне українське законодавство.

За збігом обставин, 2-го липня 2009 року Парламентська Асамблея Організації з Безпеки та Співробітництва в Европі прийняла резолюцію, яка рівною мірою засуджує сталінізм і нацизм. Як зазначається у тексті резолюції, "в 20-му столітті два головні тоталітарні режими, нацизм і сталінізм, принесли геноцид, порушення прав і свобод людини, військові злочини і злочини проти людства" (в оригіналі "in the twentieth century European countries experienced two major totalitarian regimes, Nazi and Stalinist, which brought about genocide, violations of human rights and freedoms, war crimes and crimes against humanity"). Документ закликає всіх членів ОБСЕ разом протистояти будь-якому тоталітарному правлінню, якого б ідеологічного підтексту воно не несло і засуджує "вихваляння тоталітарних режимів, включаючи проведення публічних демонстрацій, що прославляють нацистське або сталіністське минуле".

А уряд Литви ще 17 червня 2008 року в "Законі про мітинги" заборонив демонструвати на мітинґах герби чи прапори Нацистської Німеччини, СРСР, Литовської РСР, зображення їх лідерів та будь-кого, причетного до репресій щодо населення Литви, демонструвати нацистську свастику, символ СС, серп та молот, червону п'ятикутну зірку, виконувати гімни Нацистської Німеччини, СРСР, Литовської РСР.

Пора б і в Україні прийняти закон, котрий забороняв би звеличення комуністичної тоталітарної ідеології в будь-яких формах і проявах, подібно до того, як це було зроблено в Федеративній Республіці Німеччини щодо націонал-соціялізму після другої світової війни, і невідступно карати за його порушення, а також встановити конкретне покарання за заперечення Голодомору в Україні.

Деякі "політологи" кажуть, що в Україні ще настільки багато прихильників старого режиму, що не вартує їх дратувати, бо це може створити загрозу інтересам країни, ба, навіть самій країні. Як тоді вони пояснять той факт, що 1 грудня 1991 року на Референдумі про незалежність України за цю незалежність проголосувало 90,3% громадян, при чому більшістю в кожній з областей України? Міф про неможливість рішучої декомунізації якраз цим і є - міфом, який старанно підживляють антиукраїнські сили. І часто-густо українські політики й урядовці, віряч в нього або, в гіршому випадку, будучи прихованими чи відкритими ворогами України, допомагають тримати цей міф при житті. Ось тільки кілька свіжих прикладів.

1. Закон України «Про Голодомор 1932—1933 років в Україні» від 28 листопада 2006 декларує: "Публічне заперечення Голодомору 1932-1933 років в Україні визнається наругою над пам'яттю мільйонів жертв Голодомору, приниженням гідности Українського народу і є протиправним." Гарно, але чи є визначені якісь санкції щодо винних в таких протиправних діях? Певно, що ні, бо нинішній голова Верховної Ради України Володимир Литвин заявив в інтерв'ю московському телеканалу "Вєсті.ру": "Оскільки я історик за освітою, у мене тут позиція об'єктивна. Що стосується теми Голодомору, то я категоричний противник, коли ми переводимо цю тему в площину етноциду. Те, що робиться на Україні, призначене на експорт у цій темі. Думаю, політикам важливо було б послухати вчених. Так, як ця тема педалюється, вона перетворюється в Україні на фарс". Овва!

2. В Указі Президента України ще від 28 березня 2007 про «заходи у зв'язку з 75-ми роковинами Голодомору 1932—1933 років в Україні» декларується: "...вжити в установленому порядку заходів щодо демонтажу пам'ятників та пам'ятних знаків, присвячених особам, причетним до організації та здійснення Голодомору 1932-1933 років в Україні та політичних репресій, а також щодо перейменування в установленому порядку вулиць, площ, провулків, проспектів, парків та скверів у населених пунктах України, назви яких пов'язані з такими особами". Де ті заходи і який є встановлений порядок, коли треба самочинно руйнувати ідола ленінові в центрі Києва 30 червня 2009 року? А цього квітня з нагоди 139 річниці з дня народження Леніна на Луганщині йому відкрито ще два пам'ятники, на додаток до кількох тисяч вже існуючих в Україні, при чому "коштом місцевих адміністрацій".

3. 22 липня 2009 року Сумська міська Рада ухвалила рішення про встановлення на вул. Черепіна пам'ятного знаку Тихону Черепіну, першому секретарю обкому партії Сумської області, який загинув у 1941 році. Провід Сумської обласної організації Народного Руху України повідомляє, що "ця особа в 1938 році входила до Особливої Трійки при Київському обласному Управлінні НКВС УРСР. З 3 серпня 1937року до 5 листопада 1938 року. "Трійкою" в Київській області було репресовано 19,003 особи. Встановлення меморіального знаку особі, яка зарекомендувала себе як безпосередній учасник і виконавець більшовицького терору, є знущанням над пам'яттю мільйонів українців, що загинули у жорнах комуністичних репресій".

Що ж повинні зробити ми, українці поза межами України, щоб а) захистити тих патрійотів, які відважилися пошкодили тоталітарний монумент і б) наблизити той час, коли Україна звільниться від всіх ідолів страшного тоталітарного минулого? Маємо розбудовану мережу українських організацій, об'єднаних в Світовий Конґрес Українців, що ставить з 2008 року своєю місією "згуртування українства світу, перехід до нового етапу своєї діяльности, який відмінний тим, що передбачає не тільки допомогу Україні, а й безпосереднє партнерство з нею". Коли так, то не партнерства в переслідуванні тих, що щось реально роблять для декомунізації України, а патрнерства для підтримки цієї декомунізації.

Отже, закликаймо наші організації вимагати від Президента, Прем'єр-міністра, міністра Міністерства внутрішніх справ України а) втрутитися і припинити цей абсурдний процес, б) підтвердити право громадян України на ініціятиву в справі ліквідації (а не демонтажу) таких більшовицьких тоталітарних символів, як монументів комуністичним злочинцям, пам'ятних знаків, назв в їх честь населених пунктів, площ і вулиць, різних закладів. А їх ще є в Україні тисячі й тисячі. Закликаймо також СКУ і його складових членів ввійти в склад створеного 3-го липня в Україні Комітету декомунізації і надавати йому всю допомогу, на яку ми здатні. Включаймося в цю роботу наших організацій. Так ми найкраще допоможемо Україні, а відтак і собі.

Ось телефони, адреси електронної пошти та інтернет-адреси деяких головніших українських організацій в Північній Америці: Світовий Конґрес Українців: (416)323-3020, congress@look.ca, www.ukrainianworldcongress.org; Українська Американська Координаційна Рада: (410)884-9025, ukrdc@aol.com; Український Конґресовий Комітет Америки: (212)228-6840/6841, www.ucca.org/home/; Конґрес Українців Канади: (866)942-4627, ucc@ucc.ca, www.ucc.ca, www.ucctoronto.ucc <http://www.ucctoronto.ucc> ; Ліґа Українців Канади: (416)516-8223, www.lucorg.com

Дописуйте, висловлюйте підтримку, питайте, пропонуйте!

Використаймо цю політичну нагоду, створену п'ятьма українськими патрійотами. Поставмо невідкладну декомунізацію України нашим першочерговим завданням, зі зрозумінням, що без цього не можна розвивати Україну як демократичну, незалежну і евроцентричну державу. Україна чи не найбільше в світі постраждала від тоталітарного комуністичного режиму. Але вона ще й дотепер всіяна пам'ятками про це моторошне минуле. Якщо Україна не зможе чим швидше позбутись їх, то вона може втратити подарований їй історією шанс на гідне майбутнє.

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Mohyla Institute of Saskatoon extend their greetings as Ukraine celebrates 18th anniversary of independence this year.

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ECS Ukrainian Bilingual Program celebrates 35 years

(UBPAS/ECS)—It's an exciting time for the Ukrainian Bilingual program with Edmonton Catholic Schools. The second language program is celebrating a milestone 35th anniversary of teaching students the Ukrainian language, customs and culture. The specialty program provides children with a wealth of experiences and advantages that benefit them within the classroom walls and beyond.

The Ukrainian Bilingual program in Edmonton Catholic offers continuous education from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The program explores many facets of Ukrainian culture. Students participate in celebrations, which help them gain an understanding of the Ukrainian Catholic faith with special emphasis on the Byzantine rite. Students are introduced to the beauty and uniqueness of Byzantine art and architecture. Activities such as pysanka writing and kolach baking pass on a knowledge of Ukrainian crafts, foods and symbols.

The program was originally offered at St. Matthew School in 1974 and has since grown and is now being offered at four different schools across Edmonton. Today the program is offered at two elementary schools (St. Martin, St. Matthew), and continues at St. Kevin Junior High and Austin O'Brien High School.

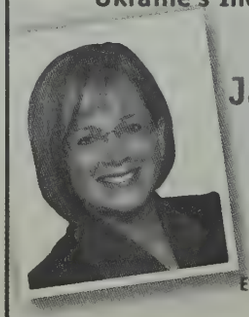
Enrolment continues to increase and in the 2008/2009 school year the program was 504 students strong. Graduates leave with a strong level of fluency skills in Ukrainian and have the ability to obtain University credentials to gain access to the University of Lviv in Ukraine and the University of Alberta. Teachers enjoy seeing their bilingual students grow and blossom with leadership potential. Parents enjoy the community of families that work together to offer their children the best possible learning environment. Cultural roots are embraced and celebrated and fosters confidence in students.

The language of a culture is a window into its soul and heartbeat. The Ukrainian culture has deep roots in family, community and the church. When language is taught, the values and roots are passed on. Join us and give your children an educational experience they will never forget with Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual program.

The Ukrainian Bilingual Program is the first bilingual program that was offered by Edmonton Catholic Schools.

The 2008/09 enrolment of 504 students is 22 students more than the 2007/08 enrolment of 482 students.

Best Wishes on the 18th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence



Janice Sarich, MLA
EDMONTON-DECORE
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P: 780. 414.1328
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Bilingual schools offer Academy of Ukrainian Dance

(ECS/UkrNews)—St. Martin Ukrainian Bilingual School and St. Matthew are offering a new Academy of Ukrainian Dance, starting this year.

Two classes of the Dance Academy are planned for September 2009 (Grade 1-3 and Grade 4-6). Additional classes will be scheduled if needed.

The Ukrainian Dance Academy will appeal to young dancers who look toward future residency in high calibre or professional dance companies. It is designed for the dancer who demands a high level of dance instruction; paralleling the approach taken by sports academies in Junior and Senior High Schools.

The Ukrainian Dance Academy will be a support for community private Ukrainian Dance groups as it will provide serious dance students with additional dance opportunities within a school setting.

Students will participate in dance instruction during physical education or fine arts blocks of instructional time. No instructional time will be taken from other subjects.

Instruction will be in both English and Ukrainian.

The instructor, Tanya Hyshka (Sendziak), is a certified Teacher with Edmonton Catholic Schools. She has been teaching in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program for eight years. Tanya has a high level of knowledge in second language acquisition and teaching experience in grades one through six. She has knowledge and training in ballet, character and extensive training in Ukrainian dance.

Tanya has studied in Ukraine under internationally renowned artists. Over the past 17 years, Tanya has been teaching Ukrainian dance to hundreds o children locally and in surrounding communities. She was part of the development team to co-write a scope and sequence syllabus for the Ukrainian Dance Academy for Edmonton Catholic schools. She has adjudicated at several dance festivals and conducted workshops at dance schools across Western Canada.

Tuition is as follows: Grades 1-3: $750.00 for 120 minutes of instruction per week ($75 monthly payments accepted); Grades 4-6: $1,000.00 for 150 minutes of instruction per week ($100 monthly payments accepted).

For more information call St. Martin School at 780-434-4848, St. Matthew at 780-473-6575 or visit <www.stmartin.ecsd.net> or <www.stmatthew.ecs.net>.

Sponsored by Edmonton Catholic Schools Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society

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У ВІДМІЧЕННІ 18-РІЧНИЦІ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТИ УКРАЇНИ ЩИРО ВІТАЮТЬ

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SALUTING THE ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

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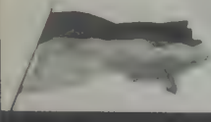
Вітаємо Вас з нагоди 18-ої річниці Незалежності Української Держави!

Best wishes to the Ukrainian Community on the occasion of the 18th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence!



Українсько-польський скандал на імені Степана Бандери

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Українсько-польський скандал здійнявся днями через учасників веломарафону із Соснівки, що на Львівщині. Велосипедисти планували їхати у Мюнхен на могилу провідника ОУН Степана Бандери через територію Польщі. Однак польські прикордонники не пропустили учасників дитячого міжнародного веломарафону «Європейськими стежками Степана Бандери», оскільки у сусідній державі здійнявся галас довкола імені Бандери. У свою чергу українські ініціатори велопробігу погрожують судовим позовом.

1 серпня з Сокаля, де мешкав Степан Бандера, стартував міжнародний веломарафон, який мав завершитись 24 серпня на могилі провідника ОУН. Майже 2 тисячі кілометрів мали подолати дев'ятеро спортсменів віком від 14 до 16 років і шестеро дорослих.

Мета акції, за словами ініціаторів, пропагувати серед української молоді здоровий спосіб життя. Адже Степан Бандера є в цьому приклад: він не вживав алкоголю, не палив і займався спортом.

У Польщі учасники веломарафону планували відвідати старовинний Краків і концтабір Освєнцім, де були закатовані два рідні брати Бандери. Організатори велопробігу заявляли, що проїжджатимуть Польщею без прапорів і будь-якої бандерівської символіки.

Натомість, коли у Польщі почули про веломарафон, присвячений пам'яті провідника ОУН Степана Бандери, польські радикали, на чолі з римо-католицьким священиком Тадеушом Ісаковичем-Залеським, здійняли галас і організували протест, назвавши велопробіг «антипольською пропагандою». В оприлюдненій ними заяві мовилось, що Степан Бандера був засуджений за участь у замаху на життя польського міністра внутрішніх справ Пєрацького, згадали і про діяльність УПА в 1943 році на Волині. Влаштували пікет перед кордоном у день, коли учасники марафону прибули на прикордонний пункт «Медика».

Протягом п'яти годин дітей і дорослих опитували польські митники та прикордонники в окремих кімнатах.

Керівник веломарафону, президент благодійного фонду «Еко-милосердя» Павло Савчук розповів: «Я бував у багатьох країнах, ми нещодавно повернулись із Польщі, ніколи такого не було, ми не мали жодних проблем, взяли паспорт, поставили штамп – все. А тут, коли висвітилось моє прізвище на комп'ютері, одразу почали питати, де народився, ім'я мами, батька, дідуся, бабусі, задавали запитання, чому їдемо, куди, скільки маю грошей. Ми одразу повідомили свій маршрут. А під час розмови мені уже дзвонили польські журналісти, які уже знали, що нашу групу не пропустили у Польщу, просили назвати причину… День перед тим нам дозволили їхати і раптом – ні…»

За словами водія автомобіля Павла Ілечка, який супроводжував групу, польські митники і прикордонники перевірили усі речі в машині, вони шукали щось із символікою Степана Бандери. Але знайшли власні речі спортсменів і краєзнавчу літературу.

«Навіть взяли мою кепку, бо вона чорно-червона, – каже він, – але не побачили символу Бандери, лише напис «Нью-Йорк»… Все перерили, переглянули зошити, тексти пісень, тільки мали бути слова про Бандеру. Я поцікавився навіщо це їм, а у відповідь почув, що мовляв мене питають, а я мовчу».

Юних спортсменів не пропустили у Польщу, аргументуючи тим, що причина поїздки вказана ними при отриманні візи не відповідає реальній меті мандрівки. Дорослим анулювали шенгенські візи, які були видані на початку липня і за якими велосипедисти уже один раз перетинали польський кордон як учасники марафону на теренах Польщі. Термін візи дійсний до кінця вересня, зазначає Павло Савчук, тому вони могли нею користуватись, без додаткового звернення у Генеральне консульство Польщі.

За словами пана Савчука, до міністра внутрішніх справ України Юрія Луценка зателефонував його польський колега і пояснив, які саме може мати наслідки візит львівських велосипедистів для українсько-польських відносин. Тому МЗС України в останній день рекомендувало змінити маршрут через Словаччину.

Мацей Зімовські з Кракова, власник туристичної агенції «Пригода, велосипеди, екоінтеграція» зазначив у коментарі Радіо Свобода, що це немислимо, що польські митники та прикордонники не пропустили дітей через територію Польщі.

«Україна, виглядає на те, відчуває якісь репресії. Польща офіційно є країною зі свободою слова і відсутністю цензури, – говорить Мацей Зімовські. – Від велосипедистів з України вимагали права на водіння ровером. Але це абсурд. Такі картки велосипедистів вигадка тільки Польщі, ні від кого не вимагають... Ні від німців, ні від англійців, лише від українців. А де вони мають їх взяти, якщо в Україні такого нема. Це вже несправедливо. Польща виявила неповагу до України».

Із прикордонного пункту пропуску юних спортсменів забирала американська волонтерка миру Катрін Дитчек. Вона зауважила Радіо Свобода, що подібний інцидент немислимий для європейської демократичної країни, якою є Польща і наголосила, що, як американка, вона вірить і дотримується свободи вибору, прав людини і тому підтримує учасників марафону, допомагає їм.

Ініціатори веломарафону домагатимуться відновлення шенгенських віз, вони звернуться у Європейський суд з прав людини проти держави Польща.

Водночас місцеві політики у своїх зверненнях нагадують польській стороні, що на Личаківський цвинтар щодня приїжджають тисячі поляків на місце поховання польських вояків, які загинули в українсько-польській війні у 1918 році. Цих полеглих українці не вважають героями, але не перешкоджають громадянам Польщі вшановувати їхню пам'ять, запалювати свічки, приходити польським ветеранам у формі Армії Крайової. Тому й не вимагають від поляків визнання героєм Степана Бандеру, але вважають неприпустимим, що польська сторона забороняє неповнолітнім проїжджати через територію держави, звинувативши ще й у політичній провокації.

Коли визнають Степана Бандеру героєм на державному рівні?

Олена Ремовська . *Радіо Свобода*

У рік сторіччя від дня народження керівника Організації українських націоналістів Степана Бандери не припиняються суперечки довкола його постаті. Одна з основних дискусій розгортається щодо того, чи доречно присвоювати йому звання Героя України.

У жовтні 2007 року Президент Віктор Ющенко своїм указом присвоїв звання Героя України командиру Української повстанської армії Роману Шухевичу. Оскільки командир УПА фактично був підлеглим Степана Бандери, після указу Президента вкотре розпалилися дискусії щодо присвоєння звання героя самому очільнику ОУН-УПА.

Степан Бандера – постать для українців неоднозначна. Опоненти вважають його мало не за колаборціоніста, натомість прихильники називають провідником національно-визвольної боротьби. Негласна війна між ними триває вже майже півстоліття.

Різняться думки й донині. Завідувач відділу історії України 20-30-х років XX століття Національної академії наук, професор Станіслав Кульчицький вважає: поки не час офіційно визнавати Степана Бандеру героєм. Дослідник припускає, що подібне може поглибити суперечки в українському суспільстві. «Головне зараз інше:донести до українських громадян, що таке Україна, що таке справжня українська історія. Потрібно, щоб історична пам'ять прокинулася. Чи можна це зробити присвоєнням Степану Бандері звання героя? Думаю, ні», – каже історик.

Натомість провідний експерт Інституту зовнішньої політики Дипломатичної академії при МЗС України Олександр Палій переконаний: запеклі дискусії довкола постаті керівника ОУН-УПА незабаром вщухнуть. «Істерика, яка є навколо цих проблем, відійде, оскільки навіть у різних регіонах України є розуміння, що ті люди, які боролися за цю країну, заслуговують на винагороду», – наголошує він.

А вже автор фільму «Три любові Степана Бандери», журналіст Юрій Луканов зазначає, що офіційне визнання лідера ОУН-УПА Героєм України є лише «формальним жестом». «Об'єктивно він уже є героєм. Це надзвичайно вагома постать, яка зі своїми плюсами і мінусами однозначно зіграла дуже велику роль в історії», – вважає він.

Напередодні стало відомо, що Ліга українців Канади надіслала на адресу Президента України відкритого листа. У ньому висловлено прохання посмертно присвоїти Степану Бандері звання Героя України і таким чином «відновити історичну справедливість» щодо постаті керівника ОУН.

Ukraine's participation in the 2010 Olympics

By Lubomyr (Mir) Huculak, *Honorary Consul of Ukraine for British Columbia*

The 2010 Olympics will consist of the Winter Olympics and the Winter Paralympics.

The 2010 Winter Olympics, or the XXI Winter Olympics, will be held Feb. 12-28 in Vancouver with some events held in the resort town of Whistler nearby. Both the Olympic and Paralympic Games are being organized by the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC).

These will be the third Olympics hosted by Canada. First were the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, then the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Following Olympic tradition, then Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan received the Olympic flag during the closing ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

The flag was raised on Feb. 28, 2006, in a special ceremony, and will be on display at Vancouver City Hall until the Olympic opening ceremony, which event will be officially opened by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

Eighty-six winter sports events have been announced as part of the 2010 Winter Olympics. The eight sports categorized as ice sports are: bobsled, luge, skeleton, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, and curling. The three sports categorized as alpine, skiing and snowboarding events are: alpine, freestyle and snowboarding. The four sports categorized as Nordic events are: biathlon, cross country skiing, ski jumping, and Nordic combined.

The opening and closing ceremonies and "ice sports" (excluding bobsleigh, luge and skeleton) will be held in Vancouver and Richmond. All alpine skiing events will be held on Whistler Mountain (Creekside) and sliding events (bobsleigh, luge and skeleton) will be held on Blackcomb Mountain. "Nordic events" will be held in the Callaghan Valley located just to the west of Whistler. Cypress Mountain (located in Cypress Provincial Park in West Vancouver) will host the 2010 freestyle skiing (aerials, moguls, and ski cross), and all 2010 snowboard events (halfpipe, parallel giant slalom, snowboard cross).

Hockey will be played at General Motors Place in Vancouver, home of the NHL's Vancouver Canucks.

Over 80 nations may be participating. Ghana, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands and maybe Tonga will make their winter Olympic debuts.

Ukraine will send approximately 60 athletes and approximately 50 coaches and support staff. Ukraine will participate in 11 sports (biathlon, alpine skiing, ski racing, cross country skiing, ski jumping, sledding, freestyle (acrobatics), snowboarding, figure skating, short track and speed skating).

The president of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Ukraine is Serhiy Bubka, a world class pole vaulter and a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The First Vice-President is Volodymyr Brynzak, chief of mission at the Vancouver Olympic Games is Nina Umanets, the head of development of Olympic movement in Ukraine is Myroslav Hrabovetskyy and Mykola Kostenko is the Olympic advisor to the President of Ukraine.

According to Volodymyr Brynzak, Ukraine can expect positive results in 5 sports, namely: biathlon, ski races, skating, sledding and freestyle.

The National Olympic Committee of Ukraine appointed Walter Zavadell and Mir (Lubomyr) Huculak as assistant attachés for the Vancouver and Whistler Games.

After the successful experience of creation and functioning of the Ukrainian Olympic House in Beijing, the tradition is to continue with a Ukrainian House in Vancouver. The House will be decorated with national colours of Ukraine and the House will attempt to convey to visitors the cultural and historical richness of the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine's Winter Paralympics team.

The Ukrainian House will be a gathering place for Ukrainian Olympians and will also be a place for receptions for honoured guests from around the world, for press conferences and business meetings, festive receptions for the Diaspora, and a place to honour Ukrainian athletes.

The XXI Olympic Winter Games will have two Olympic Villages, one in Vancouver and the other one at Whistler and the Villages will open their doors on Feb. 4, eight days before the Games start. The national flags of the Ukrainian delegation will be solemnly unveiled on Feb. 11. The athletes will be housed in brand new 4 to 6 storey apartment buildings, most of which have been pre-sold and will be occupied by buyers after the Olympics are concluded.

As far as is known to date, only one Canadian athlete of Ukrainian descent will be taking part in the 2010 winter Olympic games. This person is Larisa Yurkiw of Ontario who will be competing in downhill skiing in the Super G class. Larisa was born on the March 30 1988, earned her first World Cup top ten finish in 2008-2009 season, and won a silver medal at the 2008 World Junior Championships.

The 2010 Winter Paralympics, officially known as the X Paralympic Winter Games, will be celebrated in Vancouver and Whistler between March 12 to March 21. The Opening Ceremony will take place in BC Place Stadium, Vancouver. Paralympic games were first introduced in 1976.

2010 will be the second time Canada has hosted the Paralympics, including the 1976 Summer Paralympics in Toronto.

June 7, 2006, Prince Edward, as a member of the Canadian Royal Family, and patron of the British Paralympic Association, raised the flag of the Paralympic Games outside Vancouver City Hall.

Five sports will be on the 2010 Paralympics program: Alpine skiing, Biathlon, Cross-country skiing, Wheelchair curling, Sledge hockey.

Venues for the 2010 Winter Paralympics will be shared between Vancouver and Whistler, as with the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Ukraine will be sending approximately 20 Paralympic athletes plus as many coaches and support staff.

Valeriy Mikhailovych Sushkevych is the of president of the National Committee for Disabled Sports of Ukraine, president of the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine, member of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine, head of the National Assembly of Disabled of Ukraine, President of the Association of Sports Industry of Ukraine, and

Sports

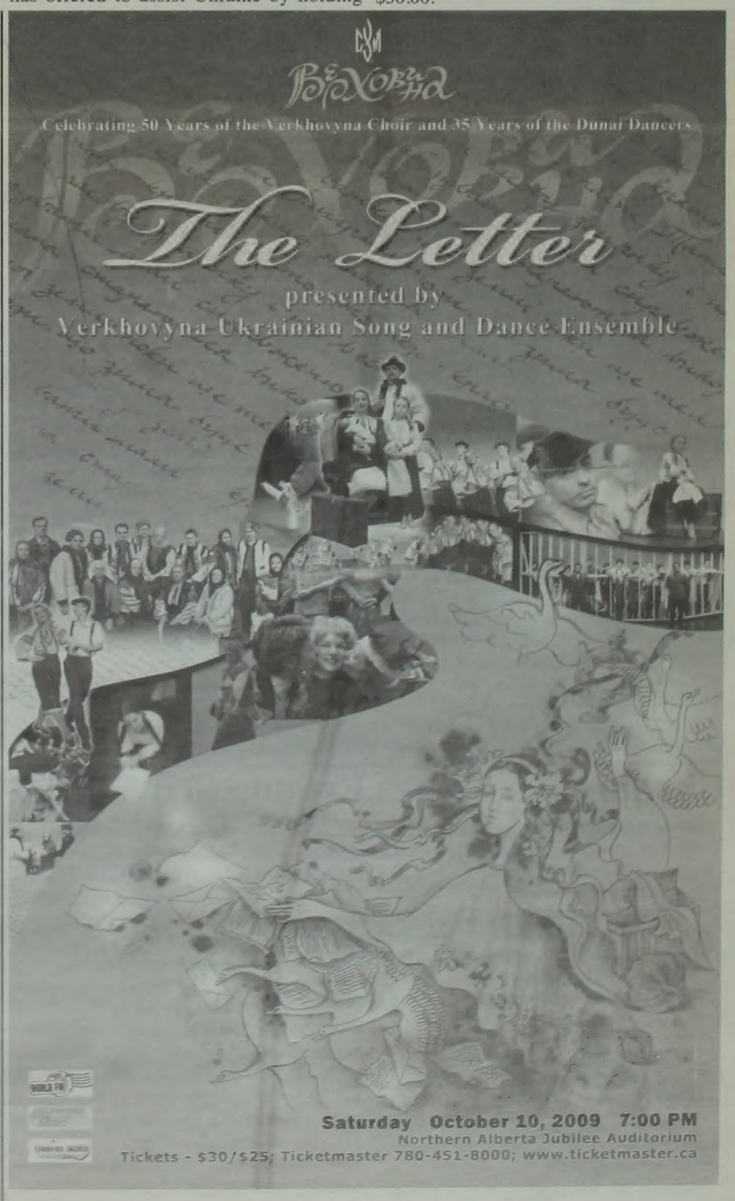
head of the Supreme Council for pensioners, veterans and the disabled. He has been hailed as a true Ukrainian hero. Sushkevych is assisted by Oksana Skugavera, as vice president and by Oleksandr Onyshchenko, as head of international relations for the Committee.

The National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine appointed Luba Galyuk as attaché for the Vancouver and Whistler Games and Mir (Lubomyr) Huculak as Coordinator.

As Ukraine is hard hit by the economic crisis, funding for the Olympic Games has been impacted. Therefore the Canadian Diaspora has offered to assist Ukraine by holding fundraising events. In Vancouver, Ukrainian Day will be held on Sept. 12 , with some of the net proceeds being directed to the National Paralympic Team of Ukraine. Toronto is organizing an Olympic Ball for Oct. 24 and Vancouver is planning an Olympic Ball for Jan. 30, 2010.

Donations are welcome for both NOC of Ukraine and the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine and can be sent to: Canadian Ukrainian Committee - British Columbia Branch c/o #807 - 938 Howe Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 1N9

The donations will be distributed as directed by the Vancouver "Canadian Friends of the Ukrainian Olympic Committee" and income tax receipts may be issued for donations over $50.00.



Wozniak ousted by Russian, Bondarenko upsets Williams

Ukrainian Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak's quest to win a World Tennis Association Tour title in her home country will have to wait another year, reports The Canadian Press.

The Blainville, Que., native dropped a 6-4, 6-4 decision to Russia's Alisa Kleybanova in first-round action Aug. 18 at the US$2-million Rogers Cup. Wozniak's loss means that none of the four Canadians in the main draw advanced to the second round.

Wozniak, ranked 40th in the world, came in with the highest hopes of them all. But the 21-year-old was broken three times in the first set, winning just 52 per cent of her first-serve points along the way.

Another service break put Kleybanova ahead 3-2 in the second set. After Wozniak broke to tie the game 3-3, the 36th-ranked Kleybanova returned the favour to go back up a break, sealing Wozniak's fate.

"She plays a really aggressive ball, and it was hard for me to change the direction like I wanted," said Wozniak. "I think she just stepped up on the easy, short balls that I was giving her. She was taking advantage."

No Canadian woman has won the Rogers Cup since Faye Urban beat countrywoman Vicki Berner in the 1969 final.

"It's disappointing, for sure," said Wozniak. "This tournament is the one I want to win so bad. Hopefully one day's it's gonna be mine."

Wozniak and Toronto's Sharon Fichman later fell 1-6, 7-6 (5), 10-4 to Polish duo Klaudia Jans and Alicja Rosolska in first-round women's doubles action.

Wozniak insists she won't let her subpar performance in Toronto spoil what has been a strong season to date.

"I have to look ahead," said Wozniak. "I was (21st) in the world a couple of weeks ago, and there's so many big tournaments out there I can do really well in. I just have to have a good attitude and keep going forward."

Earlier that day, unheralded Ukrainian Kateryna Bondarenko recorded the upset of the tournament thus far, knocking off third-seeded American Venus Williams 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 in a second-round stunner. Bondarenko, ranked 64th in the world, will now face either Agnes Szavay of Hungary or Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the third round.

"I was playing really good," said Bondarenko. "The first set, I didn't know what to do with her power. The rest of the game, I just tried to keep the ball in play."

Williams arrived in Toronto as one of the favourites, despite not having played here since she was a 17-year-old in 1997. She leaves having never won a match at the Rogers Cup, dropping to 0-3 all-time.

"I was definitely expecting to play well, and to go very far in the tournament," said Williams, ranked third in the world. "I've got a lot of fans here, so it's disappointing."

Williams controlled the first set but couldn't shake a determined Bondarenko, who chased down shot after shot in stifling temperatures at the Rexall Centre. Bondarenko broke Williams three times in the second set and once more in the third, while winning 20-of-28 service points of her own in the deciding set.

Bondarenko initially said it was "just another match," but quickly changed her tune.

"It's big because it was against Venus," said Bondarenko. "I feel that I can win (against) anybody if I can win (against) Venus."

Kozak Games Winners

The first annual Kozak Games, designed to test the strength, knowledge and agility of competitors, were held at Ukrainian Day, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Aug. 9. Winners wereMariana Dzenick, Marina Dzenick, and Mara Dzenick, Roman Hladyshevsky. Pictured above are (top row, adults left to right): Romn Soltykevych, organizer of the Games, Monica Dzenick, Marl Dzekick. Children (left to right): Mariana Dzenick, Mara Dzenick, Marina Dzenick and Roman Hladyshevsky.

Klitschko to defend WBC crown against Arreola

Vitali Klitschko of Ukraine will defend his WBC heavyweight title against Mexican-American Chris Arreola on Sept. 26 at Staples Center in Los Angeles, reported The Associated Press citing Klitschko's management Aug. 11.

Arreola is hoping to become the first Mexican-American to win a major heavyweight title. His promoter, Dan Goossen, had confirmed details of the fight to AP the previous week.

"I am very pleased that the negotiations have been successfully concluded and that we can offer fans worldwide the fight that everyone wants to see," said Bernd Boente, head of Klitschko's management group.

"Vitali and Chris Arreola are both known as hard punchers and few experts believe this fight will go the distance," he said.

Klitschko said in the statement he was looking forward to fighting again in Los Angeles, where he has already fought against Lennox Lewis and Corrie Sanders.

"Chris Arreola is one of the strongest possible rivals. He is young, undefeated, has a hard punch and is very confident.

"I will definitely not underestimate him, but at the same time I have no doubt that I will leave California as the champion still," Klitschko said.

The bout will be the 38-year-old Klitschko's third fight since returning from a layoff of nearly four years to beat Samuel Peter late last year. Klitschko (37-2, 36 KOs) hoped to fight England's David Haye in Germany on Sept. 12, but Haye backed out last month, choosing to fight Nikolai Valuev instead.

Goossen expects a large Southern California crowd supporting both boxers. Klitschko has lived in Los Angeles at times for the past several years.

Klitschko, whose brother Wladimir holds the IBF and WBO heavyweight titles, fought Lewis at Staples Center in June 2003, losing on cuts in the sixth round despite leading the fight on the judges' scorecards. Klitschko then won the WBC title in Los Angeles in 2004, stopping Sanders.

After one more defense, Klitschko retired and repeatedly postponed comeback attempts because of injuries and two failed campaigns to become the mayor of Kyiv. When he finally returned against Peter, Klitschko had little trouble stopping the champion, who quit on his stool after the eighth round in Germany.

The fight with Arreola came together quickly after Haye dropped out. Arreola had been anticipating a fight against Oleg Maskaev next month, but eagerly seized the chance to take on Klitschko instead.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime," Arreola was quoted as saying in the Aug. 11 statement. "It's a dream come true to fight the best heavyweight in the world in my hometown."

Ukraine edges Czechs in deciding relegation round showdown

(FIBA)—Ukraine met stiff resistance but finally put away the visiting Czech Republic in a do-or-die showdown in the EuroBasket Relegation Round on Aug. 20.

The Ukrainians prevailed 82-70 to finish 4-2 and secure their Division A status.

Defeat for the Czechs, who played at EuroBasket 2007, has sent them crashing into Division B with a 3-3 record.

In a gripping encounter, Ukraine rode a strong effort from Sergiy Lishchuk to open a 28-19 lead.

Lishchuk poured in 14 of those points for his team.

The hosts went in front by as many as 11 in the first half but didn't put Michal Jezdik's team away. Instead the Czechs ended the second quarter with a 5-0 run and closed the gap to 36-30.

Oleksiy Pecherov had 12 of his game-high 21 points in the first half for Ukraine.

When play resumed, Czech baskets from Tomás Satoránsk_ and Ladislav Sokolovsky trimmed the deficit to 36-34 and they eventually went in front after a jump shot by David Jelinek made it 39-38.

The lead changed hands 10 times over the next several minutes before a crucial three plays made by Ukraine's Dmytro Gliebov.

The 1.98m small forward caught a pass from Pecherov and made a jumper with 7:42 remaining to give his side a 60-59 advantage.

He then intercepted a pass from Petr Benda and went in for a lay-up for a three-point edge.

Satoránsk_ split a pair of free-throws for the Czechs before Ukraine's Maksym Vilkhovetskyi drilled a three-pointer.

Jan Vesely drilled a jump shot for the Czech Republic but Ukraine replied with an 8-0 run that included a Gliebov basket, a three-point play from Pecherov and a three-pointer from Sergiy Gladyr.

That gave the home side a 73-62 lead with 3:44 remaining and Jezdik's team never recovered, getting no closer than seven points the rest of the way.

Ukraine overcomes Estonia in overtime

(FIBA)—Ukraine claimed a heart-stopping 75-72 win in overtime at Estonia in the EuroBasket Relegation Round on Aug. 17 after another dominating performance from their 23-year-old center Oleksiy Pecherov.

The Minnesota Timberwolves center poured in 29 points and pulled down 17 rebounds in the victory.

He had scored 28 and hauled in 17 boards in the Aug. 14 triumph over Hungary.

The win in Tallinn has left Ukraine with a 3-2 record, the same as Hungary and the Czech Republic, and kept alive their chances of staying in Division A.

Ukraine's home game against the Czechs on Aug. 20 will determine the second team to remain in the top flight.

The side that loses that game will join Estonia (1-4) in Division B. The Estonians' relegation was secured with this setback.

Ukraine almost lost on Aug. 17.

They trailed 67-63 in the final two minutes of regulation but came back to level the game when Andriy Agafonov and Oleksandr Kolchenko each made two free-throws.

The Estonians' Tanel Sokk had an opportunity to win at the death but he was off target with a jump shot before time expired.

Estonia appeared to put that disappointment behind them when taking a 72-67 lead with 3:47 remaining in the extra period after a three-pointer from Kristjan Kangur and a jump shot from Gregor Arbet.

The Baltic outfit wasn't able to build on the lead, however, and Ukraine came back.

Shevchenko pledges to stay another year at Chelsea

The Daily Mail, August 12, 2009

Andriy Shevchenko is ready to sit out the final year of his Chelsea contract before considering a player-coach role at his first love, Dynamo Kyiv.

The Ukraine giants had hoped to lure the 32-year-old this summer but admit they cannot match his lucrative Stamford Bridge contract.

Roma and teams in the Middle East have also shown interest in the former AC Milan player, but Shevchenko said: 'You know very well what Dynamo Kyiv mean to me, you know my relationship with the president, that I love Ukraine and Kyiv, but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

'I have a year left on my contract and I want to complete it. And then? No one knows what's going to happen.'

Kyiv president Igor Surkis was planning to talk to Shevchenko on international duty and said: 'He needs to decide what he wants.

'I won't coerce him. He would lose out financially because our team could not match his contract.'

Surkis sees Shevchenko as having the ability to emulate Pep Guardiola, who grew from being a Barcelona captain to a hugely successful coach in his first year in charge last season.

Calgary, Edmonton P and B's hold first joint golf tourney

(UPBCE)—The foursome of Myron Lahola, Mike Hantzsch, Nestor Makuch and Ginny MacDonald won the first annual Calgary/Edmonton Ukrainian Professional and Business Golf Tournament, held July 25 at The Nursery Golf and Country club in Lacombe

Other teams included that of Mark Palka, Andrew Ilnycky, Oleh Hnatiuk, Rostyk Sadownik and Jeff Badyk, Victor Verkhogliad, Ihor Kruk. Ihor Mazuryk had been scheduled to join the last team, but he could not make it as he was involved in a car accident a few days earlier..

The weather was perfect and everyone involved had a great time, even the first time golfers who no doubt will want to return next year when hopefully word gets out and we have a bigger turnout. The tailgate party sponsored by Rostyk Sadownik and Nestor Makuch was real hit.

Extraordinarily, after 18 holes there was a three way tie but after several minutes Andrew Elnycky manipulated the scores so that the most deserving and talented foursome was pronounced overall winner and awarded the coveted P's and B's golf trophy.

The winning team: Left to Right: Nestor Makuch, Mike Hantzsch, Ginny MacDonald and Myron Lahola.

The trophy, for safety and security reasons, was left in Edmonton on the day of the tournament however, it is being updated to include this years winners and will be prominently displayed in Mike Hantzsch's office. In typical Canadian fashion however, the prizes were distributed equally so no one would be disappointed and do more damage to the course than they had already done to the greens and tee boxes.

Kyiv predicts rebound from deep economic crunch

Business

By Roman Olearchyk,
The Financial Times, Aug. 17, 2009

Ukraine's gross domestic product contracted by 18 per cent in the second quarter, according to preliminary government figures released on Aug. 17.

The dismal figures mark Ukraine once again as one of the world's most recession-battered economies. But economists say fresh figures coming in also suggest Kyiv is beginning to pull out of recession after a record 20.3 contraction in the first quarter of 2009.

The figures, to be updated on Sept. 30, indicate that industrial production in Kyiv's largely steel export-driven economy increased in July by nearly five per cent compared to June.

"July industrial output data suggest that steel and related sectors delivered first signs of recovery," said Olena Bilan, an economist at Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital.

"As steel companies continue increasing output in August - and they will probably do so in September — we expect overall industrial performance to improve in the second half of 2009." Nevertheless, industrial growth remained down by a whopping 30.4 per cent in the first half of 2009.

Forecasts by Ukraine's main lender, the International Monetary Fund, forecast this year's GDP contraction at about 14 per cent.

The previous week, Bohdan Danylyshyn, Kyiv's economy minister, predicted that the country would make a relatively quick rebound, posting annual GDP growth in coming years of some 5 per cent.

"Although global economic recovery is widely expected to be sluggish, Ukraine is set to enjoy a faster upturn compared to its peers due to the high responsiveness of its export-oriented industries to shifts in foreign demand and their strong interconnection with other major economic sectors," Bilan said.

Ukraine has already received nearly $11bn from a $16.4bn loan package granted last autumn by the IMF in the wake of the global financial crisis. The emergency loans have helped to stabilise Ukraine's stretched finances.

Kyiv's banks were shaken up after the national currency plunged by some 40 per cent last autumn. The Ukrainian hryvnia stabilised at about 8 to the US dollar this year. But it is expected to come under additional pressure in coming months amid political turbulence ahead of the January 2010 presidential election and as billions of dollars of public and corporate debt matures. The country's companies are struggling to restructure about $10bn in near-term debt.

"Pressure on Ukraine's currency is likely to build up in the fourth quarter of 2009," Bilan said adding that this could further damage the performance of the country's banks.

Naftogaz bonds help lift domestic bonds outstanding UAH18billion

(Ukrainian Journal)ÑThe value of outstanding state domestic loan bonds grew from Aug. 3-10 by UAH 18.612 billion, the National Bank of Ukraine reported, Aug. 11.

Taking into account the initial offering of state domestic loan bonds worth UAH11.59 million over the period, this means that the government earlier issued bonds worth UAH18.6 billion to increase the statutory fund of National JSC Naftogaz Ukrayiny.

The NBU said that from Aug. 3-10, the number of state domestic loan bonds bought by the NBU and nonresidents remained unchanged, while banks increased their volume by UAH 4.617 billion, and other holders by UAH 13.995 billion.

State debt to grow to 18.9% of GDP by year end

(Ukrainian Journal)ÑUkraine's state debt in 2009 will grow from 13.8% of GDP to 18.9% of GDP, according to a forecast made by Ukraine's Finance Ministry.

"Since 2008, the sum of state debt and its ratio to GDP has been growing due to the increasing crisis and a rise in the needs of the state for state borrowing, and due to the fall in economic activity," reads a ministry's report issued on Wednesday.

The ministry said that Ukraine's state debt had been falling since 1998, when it reached 48.2% of GDP and by late 2007 it totalled 10% of GDP.

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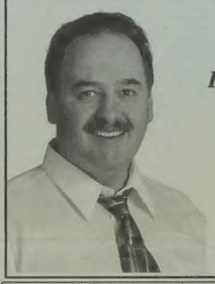

Happy 18th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence for Edmonton's Ukrainian Community.

Brian Mason, MLA
Edmonton Highlands - Norwood

Contact my office:
780-414-0682
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Ludy Dobri to liven up Bloor Street

(TUF)—Ivanka Podilchak, Entertainment Manager for the 13th annual Ukrainian Festival in the Bloor West Village is pleased to announce that Lviv street busker band Ludy Dobri will liven up the streets from Jane to Runnymede with their unique sound. The 6 member ensemble consists of Markiian Turkanyk of Ternopil, Volodymyr Bedzvin of Poltava, Iurii Rafaliuk of Khmelnytskyj, Stanislav Kyryllov and Rostyslav Mykhaliuno of Lviv and Toronto's own Mark Ihnatowycz.

Ludy Dobri (Good Folk: Good People) is a band that collects and interprets folk music from across Ukraine. The band's geographic roots are as diverse as the musical backgrounds it draws upon (classical, punk, balkan folk, Ukrainian folk, etc.). And rightly so; Ludy Dobri seeks to re-envision traditional Ukrainian folk music, unearthing fading forms and reformatting well-known classics, infusing them with a youthful energy that takes listeners through contained-chaotic-bliss to the heart of the band's instinct-driven Ukrainian-ness.

Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance to hold registration

(ESUD)—In 22 years the Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance has gained much recognition, leading Ukrainian dance in the community. Experienced, competent and caring teachers are a essential key to the Edmonton school. Under the artistic director of Ken Kachmar and instructors Celena Cherniwchan, Tammy Myskiw, Mikaila Petrov, Chris Trykalo, Andrew Trykalo and Shawn Ostifee, school will continue to specialize in child development, ballet, character, and systematically and follow sequential curriculum. The Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance has progressed in taking Ukrainian Dance into the next millennium. The school consists of over 160 students from ages three to sixty five and once again look forward to another successful year for 2009-1010. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays, at the Vohon and Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance Studios on 10629 – 98 St.

The school provides hard wood floors with a marlin dance floor, mirrors and ballet bars. Parents can relax in the school's waiting room, during their children's rehearsal with a fresh cup of coffee. The school also provides a costume director. Material can be provided for you or costumes can be sewn. All other character or Ukrainian costumes, props are provided by the school. If transportation is needed for a performance or competition it is all paid for by the school. Competition fees are paid by the school.

The dancers will enjoy dancing in many venues through out the year from festivals, competitions, concerts, etc. We must add in the School's Christmas party and Year-end Picnic where dancers and parents can enjoy themselves.

The best part about the school is that there is no fund raising or volunteer work involved. Parents can relax knowing the they do not have to work a bingo on a weekend.

We are looking forward to seeing you all. Registration will take place on September 15th or 22nd 2009, 5 to 7 pm at the studio 10629 – 98 St.

Kushniruk named Vohon's new Assistant Artistic Director

(Vohon)—Tricia Kushniruk has been appointed as the new Assistant Artistic Director of the Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

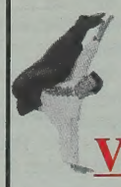
Kushniruk brings vast expertise and enthusiasm to the ensemble.

Beginning her training at the age of four, Trish has extensive knowledge in Ukrainian, ballet, tap and jazz. She has studied various forms of dance through many workshops and seminars taught by some of the world's masters. In the summer of 2006, Tricia traveled to Ukraine, taking dance workshops across the county from some of Ukraine's most renowned artists. Retiring in 2007 after 16 years with the Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Tricia enjoyed international travel through performance with the company. Her commitment to Volya allowed her the exposure to many renowned choreographers, thus furthering her dance education.

Tricia's love of dance inspired her to begin instructing in 1991. She began her career teaching ballet, tap and jazz until, 5 years later, her dedication to the Ukrainian dance culture changed her direction. Since then, Tricia has traveled throughout the province influencing a multitude of dancers. She was Artistic Director for the Sopilka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble for 7 years and has taught for various Ukrainian dance schools including the Yatran Dance Academy, the Thorhild Ukrainian Dancers, Peace River Muzyka Dancers, and the Smoky Lake Holubka Dancers. In 2007, Tricia began a new role with the Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble as Assistant Instructor. She worked in collaboration with Zhenia Bahri in developing one of Canada's strongest and most talented ensembles, preparing the company for their 2009 Prairie Tour.

Tricia works full time as a designer with an architectural firm in Edmonton.

VOHON CANADIAN-BRAZIL-AUSTRALIA-UKRAINE TOUR 2010-2011



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EDMONTON SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN DANCE REGISTRATION

The Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance are accepting registrations for 2009-2010 season.

The School provides wood floors, barres, mirrors, dance floor covering, a quality Ukrainian dance program with classical and character ballet classes. Classes start from 3 and up. Also offering Adult's Classes.

Pre-register by phoning 780-424-6632 - 780-467-5019 or register September 15 & 22, 2009 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Vohon Studio 10629 - 98 St., Edmonton.

VOHON UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE